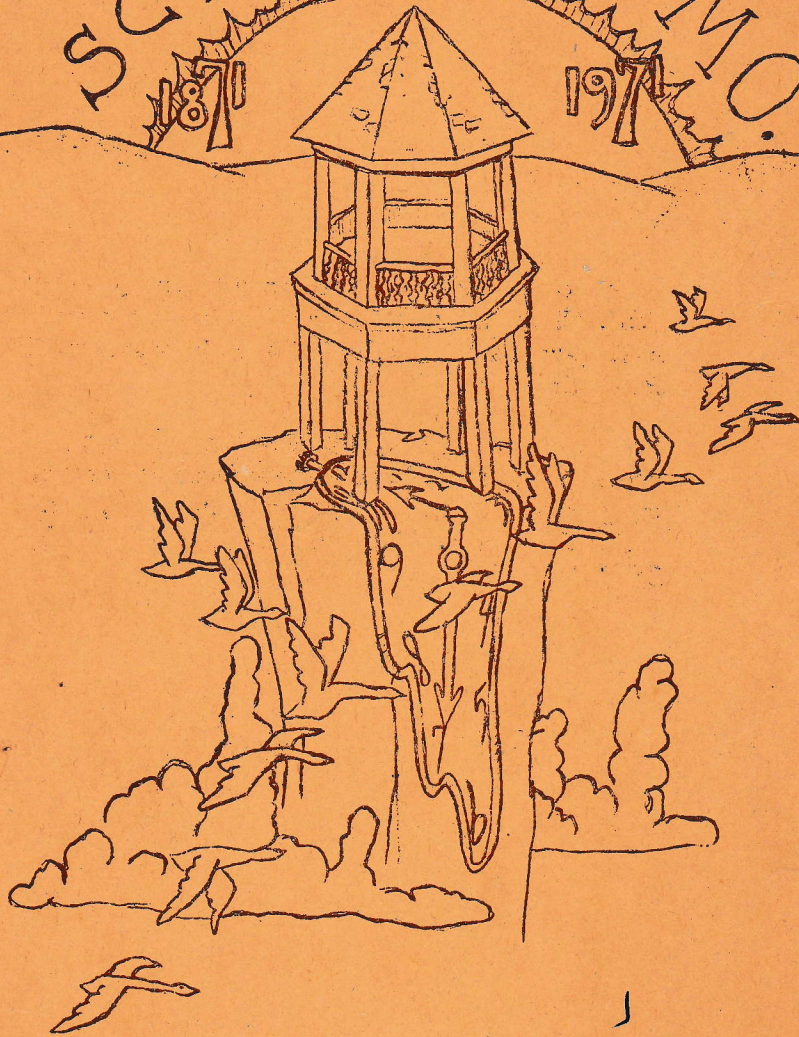


SHELL CITY MO.  
1870 1970



CENTENNIAL





The cover picture is an artist's conception of Schell City when he first arrived in town. The artist is Richard Lawson, eighteen year old grandson of Rev. Curtis Ground.

He was immediately impressed by the pagoda which he elevated above a clock face representing the passing of time. Flying across the scene, geese depict the sportsman's dream that is found on the Schell-Osage Wildlife Refuge.



From \_\_\_\_\_  
Margaret Barker.

With Love To Mary.

May-28-71

#### FOREWORD

Writing the story of the first one hundred years of Schell City has taken much cooperation, time and energy. It was a task not easily accomplished, but one that we believe to be worthwhile.

We have attempted to show the reader how our town developed and how it has changed with time. The town has survived against almost insurmountable odds. All this was possible because of the strength and perservance of Schell Citians.

Our aim has been to give you a review of the events of the past in order that you might better understand our town's growth and have greater appreciation for it and the men and women who endured to see it develop.

Our effort was possible because several Schell Citians, former residents, and neighbors provided pictures, old newspapers, scrapbooks, and their memories. We also relied heavily upon the History of Vernon County 1887 and 1911

Since we are only human, we do not consider our work entirely infallible. Although we have attempted to research carefully, we realize that errors may have crept in. We humbly submit our apologies for any errors or omissions.

Mrs W. O. Haddix, Researcher and Typist

Mrs Calvin Fagan, Author





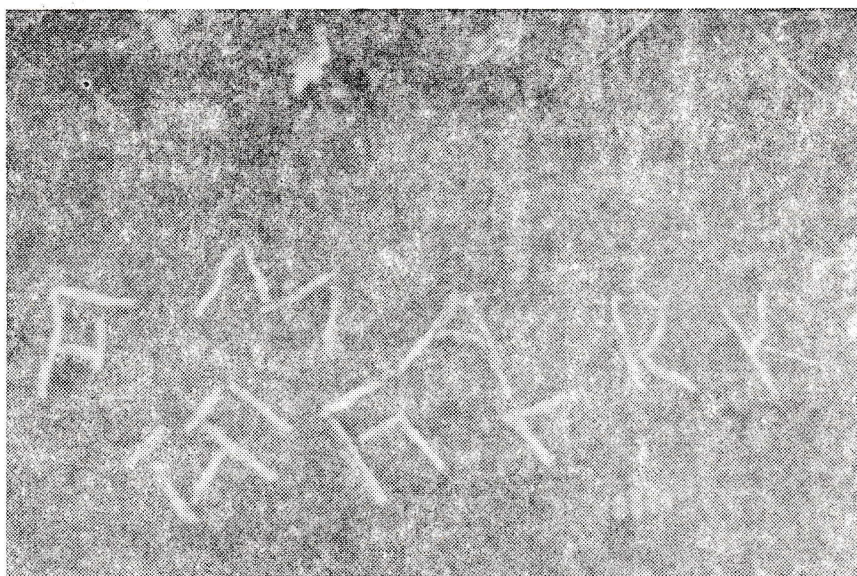


Daring expeditions of America's earliest explorers, colorful Indian lore and the excitement of a booming mid-western town have shared in the birth and development of Schell City. Today, Schell Citians reside in the quiet relaxed atmosphere of small town living, away from the screaming headlines of air pollution and crime and the fast pace of the world rushing by.

Schell City is located in western Missouri. Built on an elevation which overlooks wide reaches of prairie lands on one side and the rich bottom land of the Osage River on the other, Schell City residents have experienced the flooding of their town and farmlands from the backwater of the river and devastation by man's own creation - - fire. The

countryside surrounding Schell City was once settled by the Osage Indian tribes, whose burial grounds and culture, are important to today's look into the past.

Entering Schell City on County Route AA or County Route C, two of the three possible entrances to the town, he drives on to Main Street, U.S.A. The stranger's first impression is that he has driven into a past era. A long row of buildings, housing the businesses of Schell City, line either side of the wide street. No gaudy facades and modern buildings, none of the display windows and the noise of busy traffic hide or disturb the appearance of the century-old town and the air of the general store from the past.



These markings were found carved in the rocks on the Kurt farm which is near Blue Mound. The marks may have been made by early French explorers and fur traders. Studies conclude they are not the writings of the Osage Indians.

---

CENTENNIAL - CONGRATULATIONS

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The stranger's eye is attracted by a quaint structure standing at the north end of the main street. Natives of Schell City commonly refer to it as the pagoda. The pagoda, originally built to serve as a bandstand for open air concerts and a covering for the town well, is a seven-sided building. Today's pagoda is a replica of the original built in approximately 1880. A similar structure once stood at the south end of Main Street. Hollowed-out logs, to be used as watering troughs, were placed at each pagoda to serve early settlers who came to Schell City to trade.

The pagoda has served as a center of activity for Halloween pranksters on several occasions. Several of the town fathers and grandfathers laughingly recall that in approximately 1916 a donkey mysteriously went up the steps and was later found standing stubbornly inside. One fellow who recalls the incident, said, "he was much easier to get up than he was to get down."

Unperturbed by the frills and trivia of the space age, Schell Citians enjoy providing their own entertainment and leisure time activities. Numerous organizations, three churches and the school are the hub of the community's activities. Any citizen, young or old, soon finds that there is something for him, and he is easily an important part of the community.

Our look through the past will examine the growth and changes in the town and the significant events that have made our town Schell City, Missouri.



The north pagoda was being reconstructed after fire destroyed the original in 1893. Shown here are John Ensley, carpenter, Will Haddix, and three other assistants who have not been identified.

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CENTENNIAL - CONGRATULATIONS

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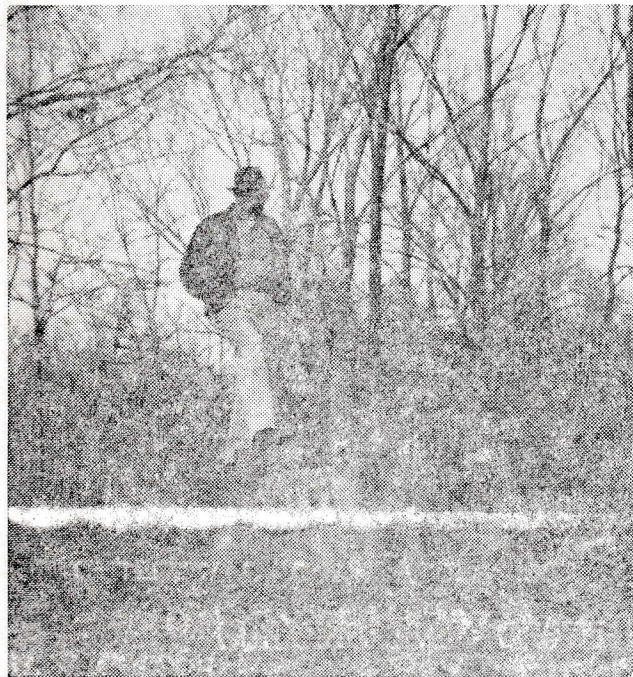
Schell City, Missouri

Phone 432-4175



After the acquisition of the Louisiana Territory in 1803, Lieutenant Zebulon Pike was ordered by President Thomas Jefferson to explore the new territory and help determine its value. To gain the confidence of the Osages living in the area, Pike returned several Osage who had been taken captives by the Pottawatomies. The Indians were jubilant at the return of their relatives and Pike's mission was able to continue. Ascending the Osage River by boat, Pike's letters report that on August 17, 1806, they arrived at a French settlement on the banks of the Osage. Nearby was the site of Fort Carondelet, which had been built by Auguste Chouteau in 1794-1795 for the protection of the settlement.

In spite of some controversy descriptions given by the explorers would indicate that Fort Carondelet was probably located near Halley's Bluff. The Fort, near the Osage villages, was actually a trading post. It had been built under Spanish authority. Chouteau had complete control of the Indian trade from his headquarters. By the time Pike's party explored the area, the Fort was gone. It had completely disappeared through some mysterious means.



In 1961 a party led by Mr. James Attebery made a study of the area around Fort Carondelet. They uncovered Indian artifacts, studied the location of Pike's maneuvering along the Osage in the vicinity of Halley's Bluff and investigated the story of the famous Bluff. Mayor Warren O. Haddix was a member of that party and walked on the foundation of one of the buildings purported to have been in the fort.

#### CENTENNIAL - CONGRATULATIONS

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## BLUE MOUND

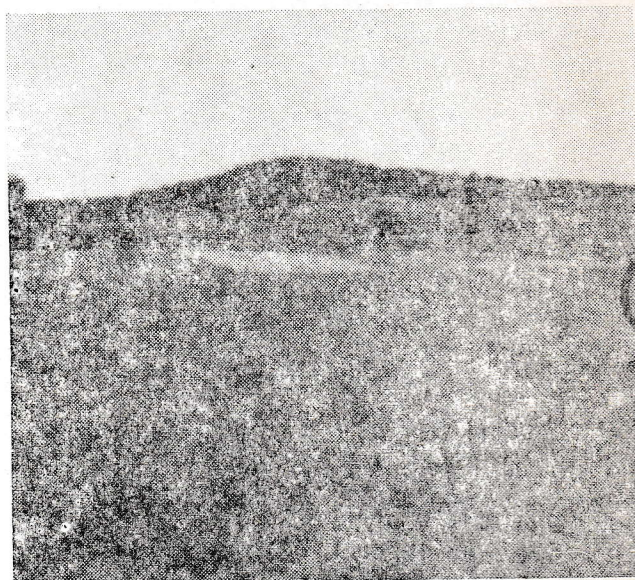
The original home of the Osage Indians, with whom Pike came in contact in 1806, is believed to have been in this vicinity since 1700. Their villages were located west of Schell City. Since they moved frequently, because of sanitation, it is difficult to determine the exact site at the time of the Pike expedition. However, some of them probably lived in the Blue Mound area. Historians have placed them in that area until 1873. Today residents in the Blue Mound area frequently find artifacts of the Osage culture on their farmlands.

Blue Mound, once a treeless mound of earth rising 100-150 feet above the prairie, was the burial grounds of the Osages. Several members of the tribe were interested in the sides of the mound. The renowned chief, White Hair, was buried on the summit of the mound upon his death in 1824. His grave became the site of an annual pilgrimage of Osages, who came to mourn their leader's passing and to rebuild the mound of stones built above the tomb. As late as 1871 the Indians made their yearly return to the Chief's tomb. The mounds are often referred to as the "Crying Mounds" because of the Indian tradition. Chief White Hair's grave was frequently molested by those searching for treasures which were believed to be buried in the Indian tombs. The Chief's tomb was alleged to have been robbed by a circuit judge named "Horse" Allen.

The prairie land of northern Vernon County impressed Zebulon Pike with its serenity and resources. Looking toward the future he wrote:

... The three branches of the river ... up which

we ascended, all winding round and past villages, giving the advantages of wood and water and at the same time the extensive prairies covered with rich and luxuriant grass and flowers gently diversified by the rising swells and sloping lawns, present to the warm imagination the future seats of husbandry, occupied by numerous herds of domestic animals, which



Blue Mound is located about five miles west of Schell City. It was once the site of the Little Osage villages.

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are no doubt destined to crown with joy these happy plains. . . . From the Osage towns to the source of the Osage River there is no difference in the appearance of the country except that on the south and east view on the prairies becomes unbounded and is only limited by the imbecility of our sight.

### HALLEY'S BLUFF

Providing one of the most picturesque natural features of the west central Missouri countryside is Halley's Bluff. The bluff, which rises majestically above the Osage and extends a half mile along the river's bank, is formed of sandstone, iron ore, sandy shale and coal.

Auguste Chouteau and Jules DeMunn, as well as Zebulon Pike, anticipated the location of the Santa Fe Trail in this area early in the 19th century. Since the steamboat was used on the Missouri River and transportation was considered more feasible along this route, hopes for the Trail to come through the Halley's Bluff area faded. Attempts to make the Osage navigable until 1839 were unsuccessful, and the dream for the famous mail route diminished.

Explorers have found large pits or caches in the bluff. Speculation has abounded as to the purpose of these caches. A study made by Mr. James Atteberry, a noted historian, and his party discredit the claim that these caches were those made by Renault and his men, who were miners, to excavate valuable minerals. The idea they consider most credible is that Indians, fur traders and trappers dug the pits and used them to conceal food, weapons and other valuables, since little or no metallic minerals exists in the area.

A touch of the South was given to the well known landmark when Colonel Anselm Halley came from Lynchburg, Virginia, in 1839 and built a palatial southern style home on the bluffs, which bears his name. Records indicate that Halley's home was a center of activity in those early days. The wealthy southern gentleman's gracious hospitality, intelligence and education made him a most prominent figure in the Osage River Basin area.

Crumbling away in the tranquility of the countryside near Halley's Bluff is the ruins of an old stone house. Light tan, rust, and red sandstone were arranged and put together with mortar by its first resident Mr Milton Lady. They were hewn from the sandstone on his place and hauled by oxen team to the building site. Inside the house he finished the walls with substance that could be washed like a dinner plate.

Electricity has been added to the house to bring some convenience to its more recent residents, although no one has lived in it for several years. The basement and first floor are comprised of two rooms each. A fireplace is located on both floors.

The pre-Civil War structure built on land, which extends along Lady Creek Branch to the Osage, was purchased by Mr Lady from the government at seventy-five cents an acre in 1854. The story of its principal resident figures prominently in the unfolding of the history of the Schell City area. As the story develops, more light will be shed on his

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### COMPLIMENTS OF

# Bank of

# Harwood

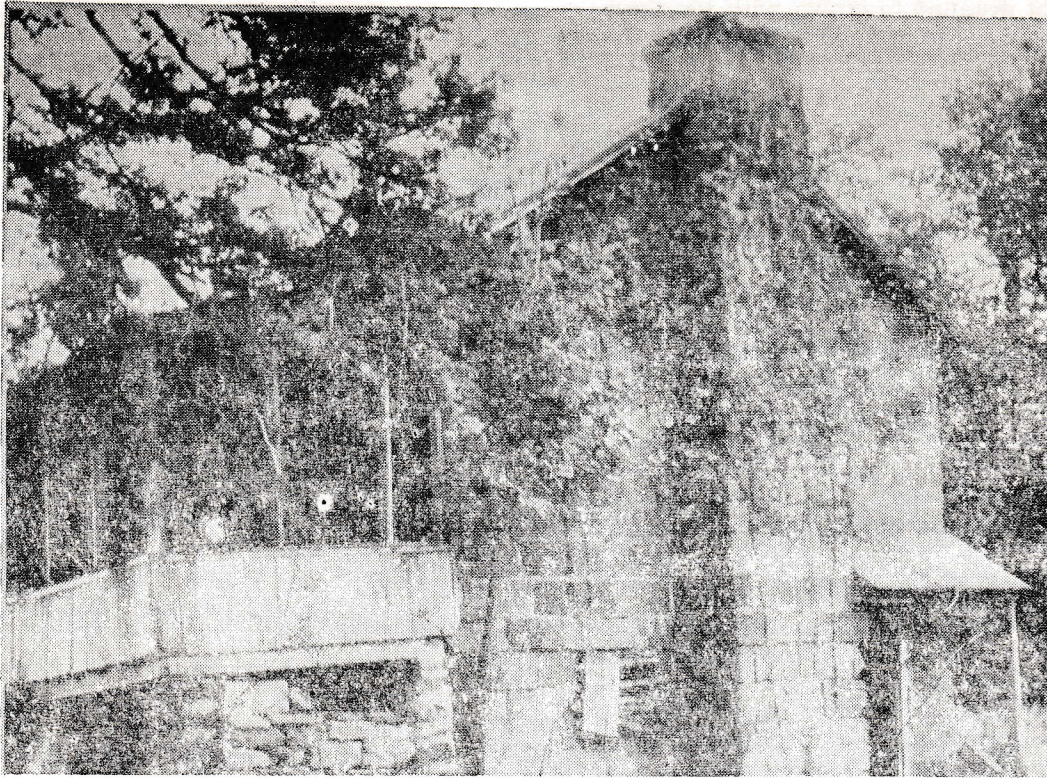
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The Lady house has been the site of much activity in the early settlement of our community. More recent settlers have made changes in the structure, including the installation of electricity.

public service. Meanwhile, descendants of Mr. Lady have related experiences of the family that occurred over a century ago.

During the Civil War when residents in the western part of Vernon County were being molested by Bushwhackers the government issued Order Number Eleven. The order required that every family in this area abandon its home and come into the lines designated for their safety. If they refused to comply, they were treated as outlaws. Everything had to be abandoned. The right of property vanished. People could not even sell their land. This edict was truly a financial blow to the citizenry.

The Ladys loaded their two small sons and bare necessities, such as corn meal, salt and fishing gear into a one-horse wagon. The family milk cow was tied to the back. With Mrs Lady driving the wagon and Mr. Lady riding horseback to herd the twenty-seven head of stock cattle, the family left Missouri for Mrs Lady's former home, Monroe County, Indiana. They were gone for two and one half years.

A family of seven children was born to the Ladys. One child died in infancy and was interred in the first gravesite of the Flat Rock Cemetery. At that time the family donated the land for the first school and church in the community.

Mrs. Lady recalled several visits of Jesse James to her home. She remembered he was always very gentlemanly and treated her like a true lady. His father had come to Missouri with Mr. Lady.

Another notorious visitor to the Lady's home was William Quantrell, leader of a Confederate guerilla band. On one occasion Quantrell's gang searched the house and one member found Mr. Lady's overcoat. When she begged him not to take it, Mr Quantrell stopped the rascal from wearing it away. After they were gone, she was thinking how kindly he

had treated her when she heard a rap at the door. Mr. Quantrell was waiting outside. He informed her that he would now take the coat. Wearing Mr. Lady's overcoat, the guerilla leader left a stunned Mrs. Lady.



Mrs Milton Lady was the first resident of the stone house.



## BELVIOR

Early settlements of white men were made in the vicinity of the Osage River for many years. The river was a convenient mode of transportation and it represented a tie to former homes and friends.

In 1834 a frontiersman, Peter Collens, settled on the south bank of the Osage at Collen's Ford, named in Pike's report as Rapids de Kaw. The younger generation are more familiar with the vicinity of One child died in infancy and was interred in the Collen's settlement as that of Belvoir.

The village of Belvoir began with the establishment of a ferry by the town's first settler, John F. Son. Mr. Son, a Kentuckian and veteran of the Battle of New Orleans, came to the Osage country in 1893. The ferry which continued to operate until the turn of the century, served as a public conveyance across the river.

Belvoir grew under the leadership of Colonel Tom Austin and the residents dreamed of it becoming a prosperous city with the advent of the MK and T railroad. A letter from Mr. John L. Maus seems to best describe the little town at the height of its prosperity.

When we came here in the spring of 1869 this part of the country was mostly unimproved. Still bands of Indians visited almost every year for sometime, but were peaceable. Game was plentiful. In one hour's hunt you could get all the young prairie chickens a person could carry home. Wild turkey were also plentiful. Great herds of deer roamed the prairie.

Old Belvoir was at that time in full blast, a very busy berg. It had a flour mill with saw mill, wool card machine, turning-lay, C. Beghan and Withup, Props., J. H. Maus and Wm. Gilham General Store, Frank and George Pierce Hardware and Tin Shop, Dr. Van Orman Drug Store, George Culp Blacksmith, Fount McKenzie Saloon. Wm. Trammel operated the ferry on the Osage River at Belvoir. At that time we received our mail at Prairie City, Missouri. Goods were nauted from Pleasant Hill. Then MK and T railroad came through this country and Schell City came on the map. Most all businesses moved to Schell City from Belvoir and Schell City became a wild and woolly town

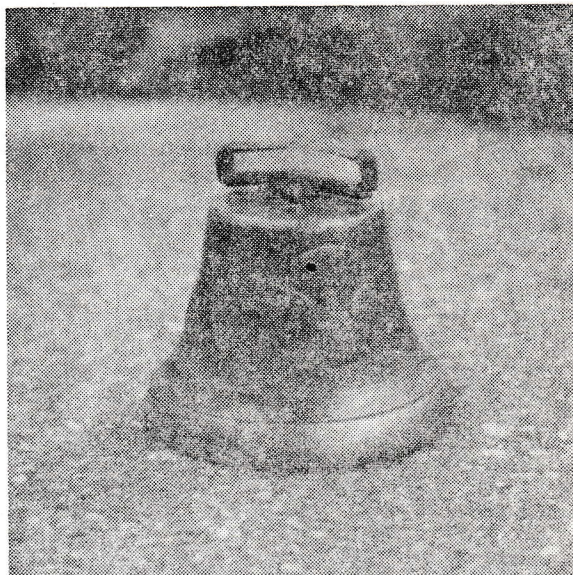
of Vernon County. It was the leading station for livestock coming from southeast counties.

At that time there were about five or six saloons in town.

Farming was different at that time. We did not have a one row cultivator, let alone a two row as now. We started farming with ox team and single or double shovel plow. Most everything was walking implements. Yes, we had corn bread six days a week and light bread for Sunday. And to think back, those were the good old days.

John L. Maus

Hopes and dreams of Belvoir residents quickly vanished when the MK and T Company laid its tracks across the Osage in the new community of Schell City in 1870. Residents of Belvoir were described as stampeding from the town to the more prmoising hamlet that had sprung up nearby. The sight of the village soon grassed over and Belvoir was a part of the colorful history of the Osage.



This brass steamship bell was excavated at the site of the old town of Belvoir. It may have been used on the ferry that was used to cross the Osage River at Belvoir.

CENTENNIAL - CONGRATULATIONS

# Schell City Ledger

Mr and Mrs Howard Sanderson Editor and Publishers

Schell City, Missouri.



## TOWNSHIP ORGANIZATION

In 1840 about a mile and a half northwest of Schell City the first resident of what is today Bacon Township settled on McKenzie Branch. He was Nelson G. McKenzie.

Prior to the township organization in 1855, other settlers came into the area. It was only very sparsely settled before its organization. At the beginning of the Civil War only about a dozen daring souls had gone into Bacon Township and made their homes there.

As early as 1840 another prominent resident had brought his family to the southeastern section of the township. He had settled near a stream dubbed Kitten Creek. Mr. James Bacon had journeyed to Missouri and settled on a farm early in the decade. He was soon to become an important member of the community and a few years later the township was given his name.

A township was created in 1855 and its area was part of what is now Blue Mound and Bacon townships. The name given to it was Lady township in honor of Mr. Milton Lady, who became the first Justice of the Peace of that township. His reputation was widely known among the settlers of the country.

A reorganization of numerous townships occurred in 1856 and this township was given its present

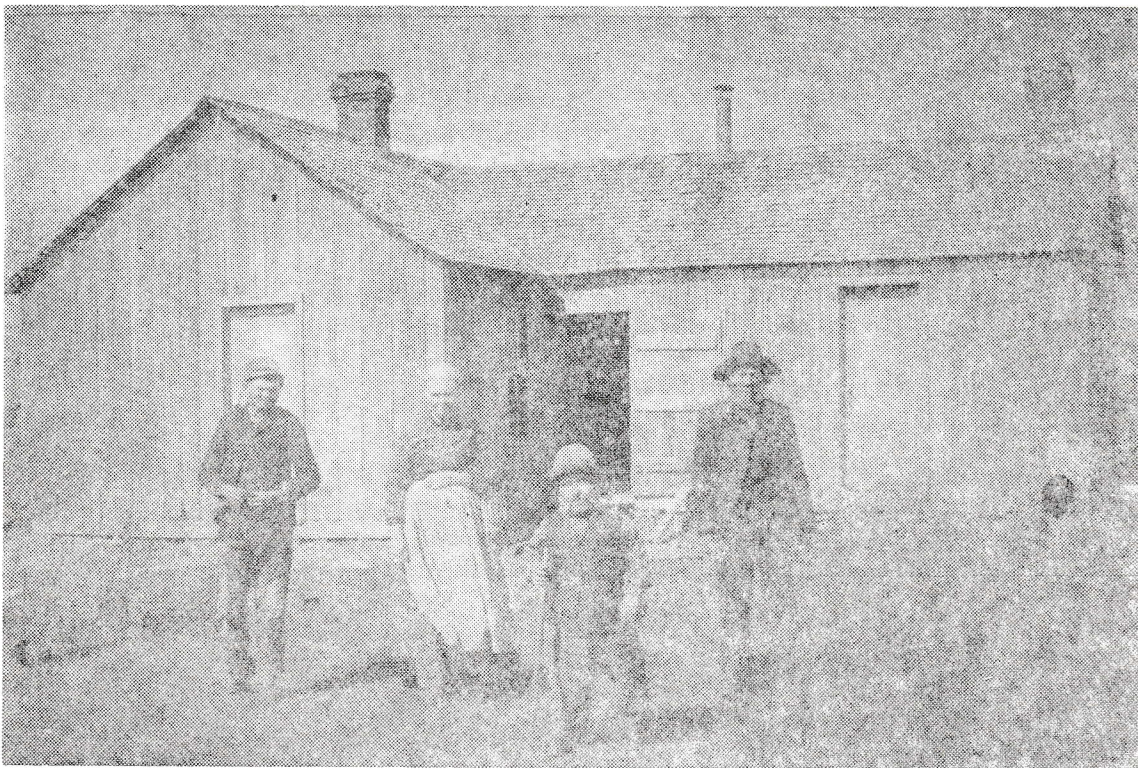
name . . Bacon township. Township boundary lines were redrawn in 1872 and this gave the district its present form.

Several other persons came to the area in the days prior to its organization and are worthy of mention, since they have given so much to the development of the township. A Mr. Melton, who indirectly was responsible for the naming of Kitten Creek, lived in the McKenzie Branch area. His son-in-law, John Roberts, came in 1841 or 1842 and established himself in the southeastern section of the township. In 1853 Jeff Hauser, Thos. Moon, Archibald Moon and Henry Meyers settled in the vicinity of Schell City.

Bacon Township is in the northeastern corner of Vernon County. It is primarily rolling prairie country. The Osage River, which is known to overflow its banks annually, flows along the northern boundary of the township. The bottoms are very fertile, but the flooding creates problems for the farmer.

Geographers have found that Bacon Township is underlaid with coal. Modest mining operations have been present in the area for a number of years.

Bacon Township is made up of Harwood, Fair Haven, Schell City and the surrounding farming communities.



One of the earliest residents in Bacon Township was Mr. John W. Luther who settled in the southeastern part of the township. Mr. Luther, grandfather of Mr. Howard Luther, is shown here with his family and a friend.

---

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## FAIR HAVEN (CONNELY SPRINGS)

Along the western line of Bacon Township is a small burg presently called Fair Haven. The name, as well as the surrounding site, has changed in recent years.

On August 8, 1885, a town was laid out at the site of the mineral springs by the owner of the land, Mr.

J. W. Connely. At that time Fair Haven was known as Connely Springs. In the early days there were two stores, a mill, post office, blacksmith shop, and a hotel. The principal businesses were a general store owned by True and Son, and a hotel owned by W. H. Thomas.

An annual celebration brought a large number of



The Fair Haven Hotel was a twenty room structure used by celebrants at the annual picnic and settlers who were in the process of moving to the region.

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people to Fair Haven on August 8th for over sixty years. The picnic was accompanied by a carnival. It was the principal attraction of the year for the area. People came in covered wagons and camped in the park. The hotel also served many guests. There were twenty rooms to accommodate the celebrants.

It was not unusual for early settlers to stay in the hotel until they found their homes. The area around Connely Springs was popular because people considered the water from the mineral springs to be very healthy.

One did not have to worry about the supply since there were five of the springs. Analysts have determined that the water in each spring is of a different character. If one did not find water from one place suitable to his constitution he did not have to move, he could just change springs.

A tabernacle was constructed in the park where Sunday School and Church services, as well as community meetings and local talent plays, were conducted. Fire destroyed the tabernacle and the Presbyterian denomination organized a church.

Sunday was a day for visiting in the park at Fair Haven. Large crowds came and sat around the pagoda listening to the local band and enjoying the



The Fair Haven band entertained on summer Sunday afternoons. Pictured above are: George True, Gene Losey, Willie Loyd, Vernon Stearns, Ray Thomas, Lawrence Parker, George Parker, Nelson True, Earl Strader and Philip Runyan.



The Fair Haven general store at the period of the towns existence.

fellowship of his friends.

The annual celebrations are no longer held and the businesses that made the little town are gone. However, the church remains, along with the pagoda over the spring and a small country store that serves the local residents.

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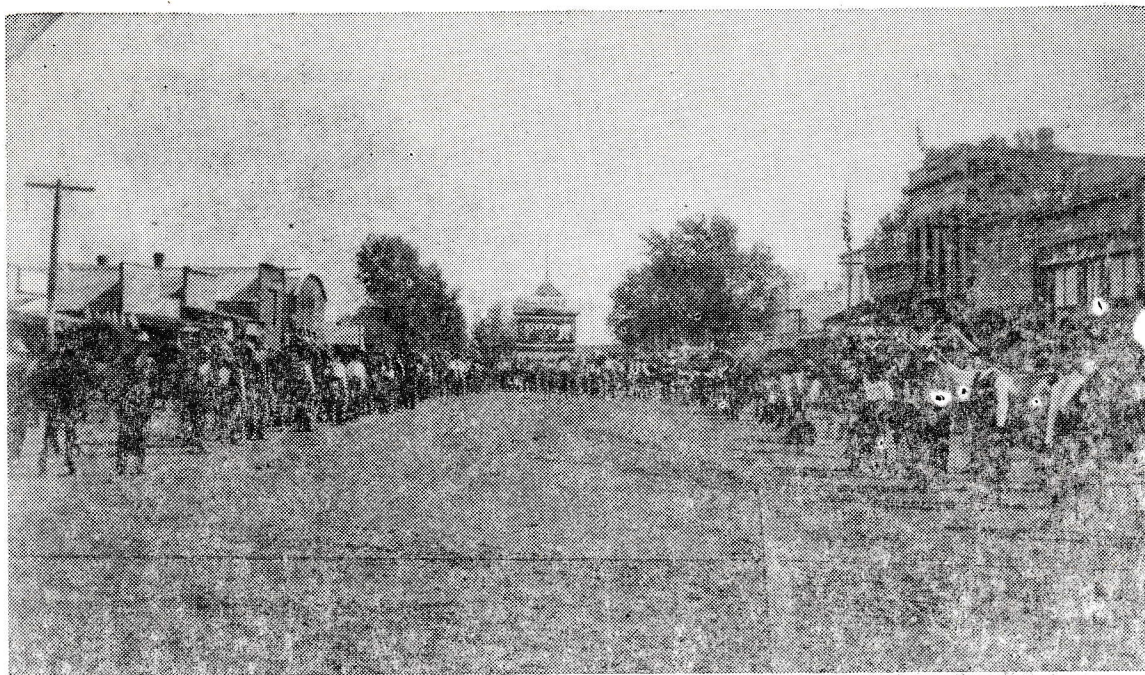
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The Street Fair at Harwood in the early part of the twentieth century was an annual affair for many years. It drew large crowds and many participants in the horse show, which was a part of the west.

### ORGANIZATION OF VERNON COUNTY

In 1851 an unsuccessful attempt was made to form Vernon County out of the then limits of Bates and Cass Counties. When the proposed lines were drawn, practically what is Bates County now was to be Vernon and what is Vernon now was to be Bates.

Since there were so many imperfections in the construction of the counties, the organizations never really went into operation. The people refused to ratify the act.

In 1854 a second attempt was made. Dr. J. N. B. Dodson, who was a member of the legislature from

Camden County, was given the duty of presenting a new organizing act and pushing it through the law making body. The act had several proponents.

A friend of the settlers of Vernon County, Col. Miles Vernon, worked diligently for the division of Bates County. With his support and influence behind the measure it was passed, partially without opposition.

The bill was signed by Gov. Sterling Price, February 27, 1855. The county was named for Col. Vernon, a former Virginian, since it was he who had pushed the legislation through.

### HARWOOD

In southwestern Bacon Township is a small village surrounded by rich rolling prairie lands with large quantities of coal near the surface. This is Harwood. Once a prosperous village of three hundred people, Harwood has seen change after change as time passed.

The town seems to have had its beginning when Mr. Charles Brown, a Scotchman, bought one thousand acres of land in the Osage River area. Mr. Brown, who was a stone dresser and miller, purchased the virgin soil at a public auction in St. Louis, site unseen. Since he was not familiar with the techniques of land surveying, Mr. Brown hired Mr. John Birdseye, a highly respected land agent to inspect the area and inform him about the purchase. Another Scotchman, Mr. Rutherford, came into the area and purchased some of Mr. Brown's land through the land agent.

After receiving the suggestion that a town be laid out, Mr. Birdseye surveyed the area for the town. An early settler, Mr. C. F. Coates, who hoped to capitalize on the idea, built a store and a house before the town was laid out.

Early in February 1882, Mr. Harwood, a Methodist minister and good friend of Mr. Brown, pur-

chased the land owned by Rutherford and the remainder of Brown's for \$1.25 per acre. By May 1884 all the lots of the original town had been sold and an addition was laid out.

The townspeople felt that the appropriate name for their town was Brownsville in honor of the original owner of the land. However, the idea was overruled by Mr. Brown who proposed that the name, Harwood, be given to the burg.

The town sprang to life and conducted a booming business of railroad shipping. The railroad depot was built in 1883. This station was midway between Fort Scott and Clinton and was appropriately titled "Midway", however, the town name never changed. In the same year a one room school was completed. Some of the early buildings in town included a general store operated by Jesse Jarelsan, and the Transient Hotel owned by J. B. Smith.

Frank Mayberry, who drew up the blue prints for the original building of the Harwood Elevator, came to the little village in 1888. He became an overseer of the farmlands still owned by Mr. Brown. He settled down, married a local girl and made his contribution to the town. The elevator is today a prosperous business owned by Floyd and Harry Gammon.





A ravaging fire in 1924 reduced much of Harwood's business district to ashes. Only the bank remained on the south side of Main Street.

In 1885 the Bank of Harwood was organized with a capital of \$10,000. Today it continues to operate with George W. Steincross as president. Mr Steincross has been associated with the bank for fifty-five years in various capacities from stockholder, cashier, to president. Gentry Steincross is cashier with Zola Steincross Mayberry assistant. The family is the only direct member of any pioneer family who still remain in Harwood.

Harwood had become a successful town in 1895. There were two general stores, a furniture and hardware store, a drug store, a harness shop, a millinery, a livery stable, lumber yard and farm machinery dealer, a grain delivery, a hay shipping business, a restaurant and blacksmith shop.

It seems that street fairs and other types of celebration were common in the early days of small mid-western towns. In the early 1900's the annual affair at Harwood was a notable event.

In the same era Lay Park was the scene of yearly Fourth of July Picnics. These were frequently very ceremonious occasions that brought families and friends together for an enjoyable visit.

The park, which is today farmland, had a pagoda where the band performed for different occasions.

The enrollment of the school had outgrown the original facilities by 1910 and one room was added. However, the community was progressive. Although the enrollment was small, they had a high school and grade school. A larger brick school building was constructed in 1923. Just thirteen short years later the high school was discontinued and students

commuted to Schell City and Walker. The last teacher in the grade school which operated until 1958 was Mrs Odessa Brown.

Unlike many rural areas, Harwood had a newspaper, the Harwood Hummer. The paper began operating in 1916 under the editorship of W. A. Gray.

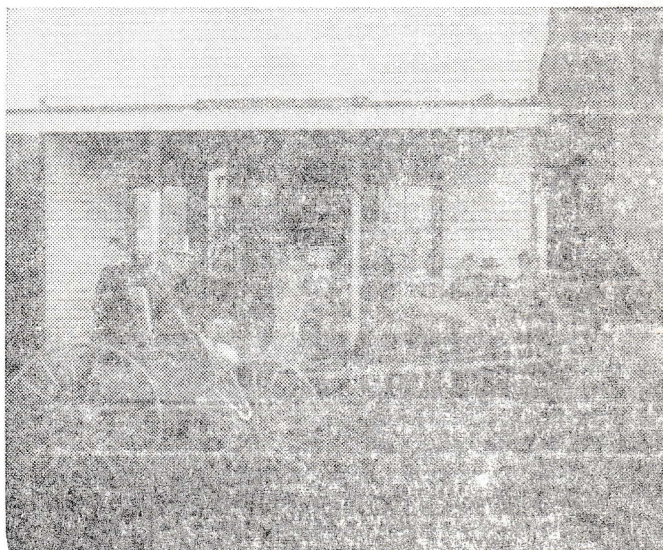
The little central Missouri town has not survived without destructive forces invading her. It came in the form of fire in March 1924. Most of the town was destroyed.

Many societies, clubs, lodges and churches have existed in Harwood through the years. Only three groups have survived. They are the Baptist Church, the Methodist Church and the Royal Neighbors of America.



The entrance to Lay Park in Harwood was gaily decorated in patriotic colors for the big July 4th picnic. The crowds were large, the food indescribably delicious and the fun and entertainment a gala affair.

Today the town continues to cover the original forty acre area. Businesses include the Bank of Harwood, the Harwood Bulk Fertilizer, Gammon's Case Implement Dealer, Gene Ellerman DeKalb Seed, and Ledgewood Stevens, Pioneer Seed.



Rural mail carrier, Earl Marshal, is seen leaving the post office for his daily delivery of the mail in the early 1920's.

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COMPLIMENTS OF  
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201 N. Main - 227 Hwy. 54 E. El Dorado Springs, Mo.

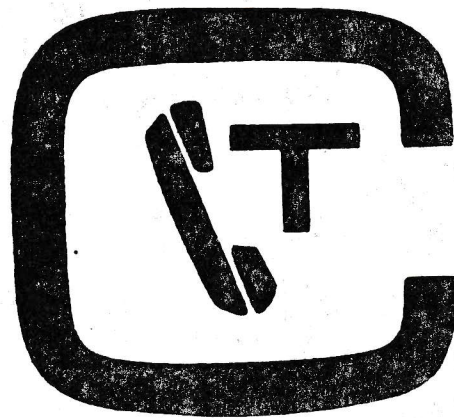
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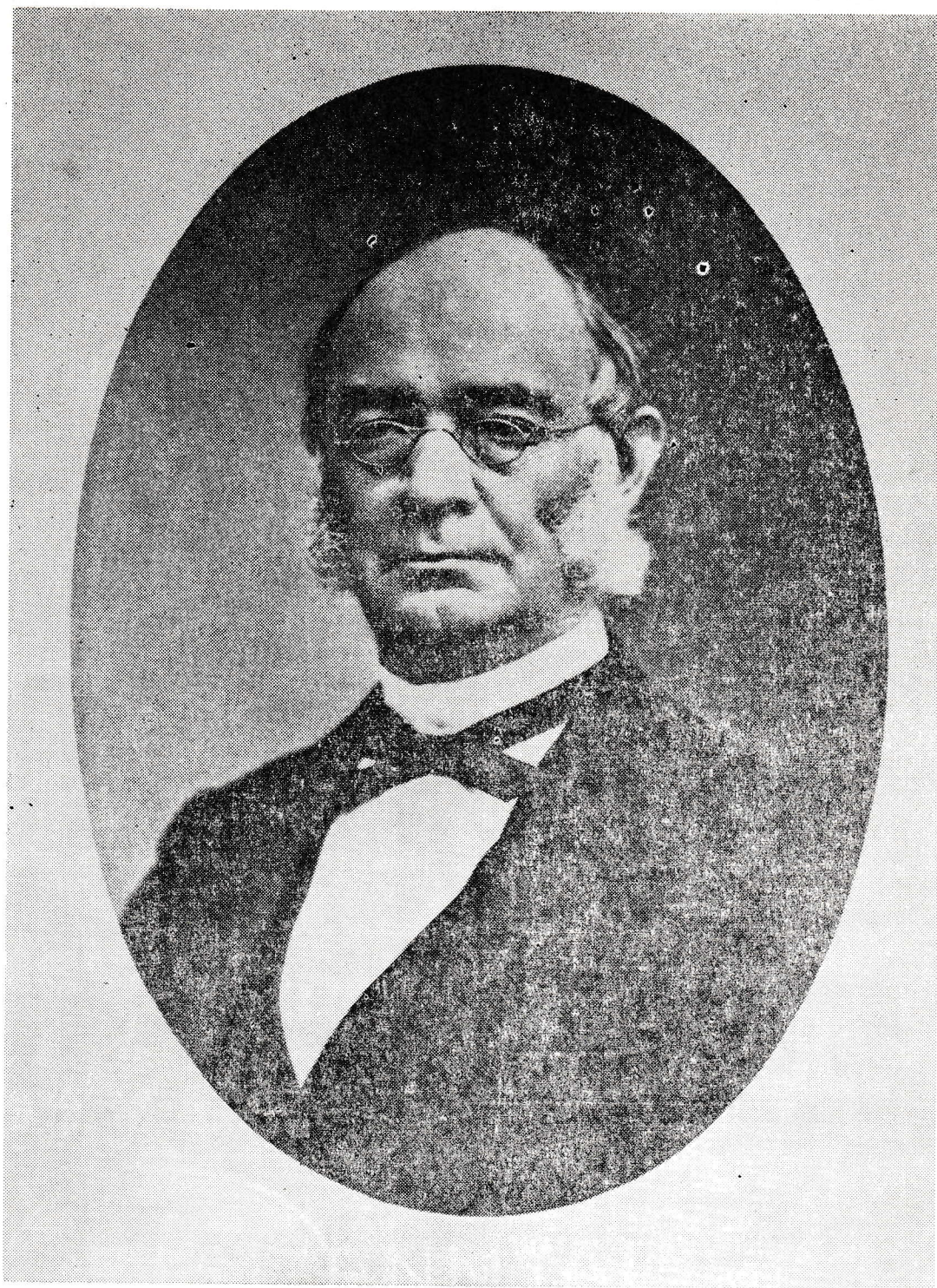
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AUGUSTUS SCHELL

(Courtesy of New-York Historical Society, New York City)



## HONORABLE AUGUSTUS SCHELL

(1812 - 1884)

Augustus Schell, the founder of Schell City, Missouri, was a lawyer, politician, and businessman in the state of New York.

Mr. Schell, who was a millionaire, was an associate of Commodore Vanderbilt and Jay Gould in the development of railroads, the Western Union Telegraph, bank and insurance companies.

The Grand Sachem of Tammany Hall extended his interest in politics to the national level. He was chairman of the National Democratic Committee from 1872 to 1876 and backed Horace Greeley in his campaign for the Presidency. Schell was appointed by President Buchanan as Collector of the Port of New York. In 1867 he was a member of the State Constitutional Convention.

The Honorable Mr. Schell was associated with many groups, but he devoted considerable time to his favorite charity, the New York Institution for the Blind. He was President of the Institution from 1866 to his death.

The activities of our founder included The New York State Historical Society. He became a member in 1838 and served as its President a year after the founding of Schell City. He was reelected to that office in 1883 and served until his death.



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## SCHELL CITY

The MK and T Railroad promoted the development of the town of Schell City. The founder of the small midwestern town was Mr. Augustus Schell, a promoter of the railroad company. Mr. Schell was from New York City where he was a prominent member of society. He was, at the time of the founding of Schell City, a Grand Sachem of Tammany Hall in the east coast city.

One historian contends that Mr. Schell passed through this area in 1870. In the early spring of 1871, the same year of the completion of the railroad, the town was laid out by the Schell City Town Company. This association was composed of Mr. Schell and his brother, Richard Schell, Cyrus Newkirk, J. R. Barrett, A. D. Jaynes, R. S. Stevens, O. B. Gunn and others. The land was purchased from Mr. J. P. Maus and a Mr. Sturgis. Maus had originally bought the land from Mr. Jeff Hauser.

Buildings to house businesses and residences began to spring up in the spring. The first building was a saloon erected at the southeast corner of Third and Main Streets. Several storehouses were built by July 1871. The first businessmen, J. H. and Almon Maus, general merchants; Fielding Childs general merchant; George A. Pierce, grocer; and George W. Culp, blacksmith; and Dr. Charles Van Orman, druggist, came to Schell City directly from Belvoir when the railroad came to the site of the new village. Asa Harvey, who built a general store and hotel (The Harvey House) north of the railroad depot, moved here from Illinois. Nearby Mr. R. E. Elam had constructed an eating house for railroad passengers and train crewmen. Although the town was developing rapidly, it was eight years before it was incorporated.

The county court incorporated Schell City as a village in 1879. It had been named for one of its founders and in turn he had generously donated \$1000 for the erection of a school.

The petition to incorporate bears the names of two-thirds of the citizens in that day. The present day reader finds the document an object of interest as he reads the names of the petitioners, the citizens who built the foundation upon which the town now stands. The following is a part of County Court Record "C". Wednesday, November 19, 1879. "And now at this day comes H. Colin. O. Duck, Anlon Eppenans, John Dowling, Jno. Peoples, Geo. W. Landes, L. B. Sullivan, Geo. W. Bridges, T. J. Smith, B. F. Herrick, Alfred Coble, Jarrot Phelps, H. B. Harkman, Willis Gardner, N. S. Gardner, E. C. Hutchison, W. A. Vaughan, C. J. Vaughan, I Crane, Zenlon Lewis, Joel H. Miles, F. Wonderly, Wm. McGinnis and Co., Elizah Daughler, H. L. Fulton, M. W. Drake, R. E. Schmoekers, T. and N. Lamey, Asa Harvey, M. A. Jones, Samuel Harvey, A. Harvey, Jr., T. W. Miles, J. F. Speed, C. L. Wright, R. D. Haire, P. M. Chaney, Solomon Strader, J. D. Findley, G. W. Matlock, S. A. Hill, Thos. McBride, T. O. McBride, S. R. Kirker, Mrs. R. L. Booth, S. P. Jinpins, Lewis Hargrove, Eli Colin, J. T. Hostdler, B. Sanarman, Silas M. Davis, Geo. W. Culp, Chas. McClain, F. L. Strong, Wesley T. Hatfield, Wm. Leslie, J. H. Maus, J. C. Taylor, Chas. W. Gardner, S. H. Griffin, A. J. Stanley, C. T. Shepherd, H. C. Wherritt, D. N. Graves, J. W. Blakely,

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Monroe, S. Davis, Frank Stonsht, and presented to the Court their petition heretofore filed, setting forth among other things, that they are taxable inhabitants of the town of Schell City in Vernon County, State of Missouri, residing within the limits of the territory hereinafter described by metes and bounds, . . ."

After the incorporation and organization of the town government, it was complete with the building of the calaboose. It was erected for the total sum of \$136.50 in 1880

The period between the founding of Schell City and its incorporation was a busy one. There were some very exciting days and there were some very



The city jail is a concrete structure. The original burned in 1893 and this building was constructed in later years. It still stands. However, it is in poor repair. Prisoners are housed in the Vernon County jail at Nevada.

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MERL FELLOWS

RECORDER OF DEEDS  
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COMPLIMENTS OF  
STERLING TYER

COUNTY CLERK  
VERNON COUNTY, MISSOURI



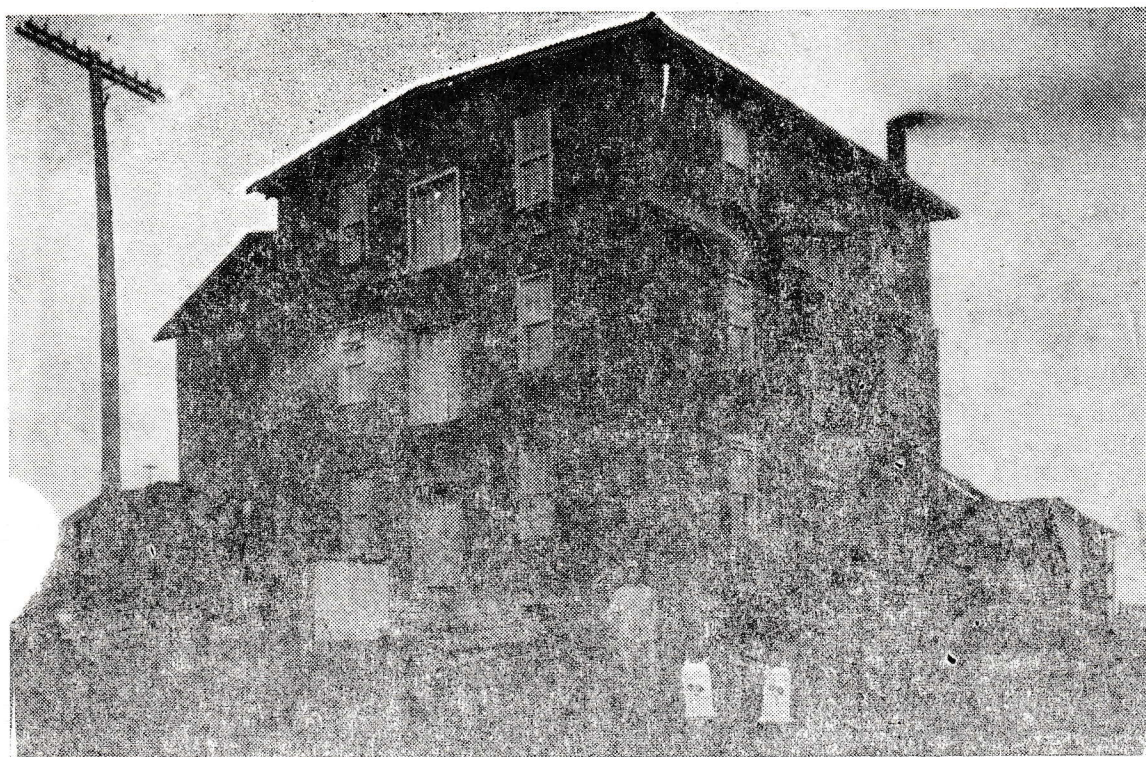
quiet, subdued ones. Probably nothing created more excitement than the arrival of a train in the spring of 1871 bearing a jolly crowd of easterners including the Honorable Richard Schell. This party was most enthusiastic and Mr. Schell was exuberant upon his arrival here. When the train arrived, a crowd met it at the depot. Speeches were made by several dignitaries. In his speech Richard Schell said, "My brother got the bulge on me by having this town named for him. I understand that he is to give you a thousand dollars for a school house because you have called it after him . . . I am just as ambitious for distinction. I will give a thousand dollars to the first living male child born here provided it is christened Richard Schell. I have two objects in view . . . I want distinction for myself, and I want to encourage the populating of Schell City. Now, go to work, all of you, and may the Lord bless your labors!"

Without a doubt this speech set the stage for more excitement, speculation and anticipation than many residents had known. Records indicate that qualified couples moved to the village to compete

for the prize. Wagers were placed on the most likely candidates "against the field". The hopes of one couple were dashed when twin babies were born lifeless and another's baby was a girl.

On the day of the blessed event the anticipation and tension was really high. At two separate homes events were occurring that made the competition really keen. The townspeople and the anxious fathers-to-be waited impatiently for a red handkerchief to flutter from the porch if the baby was a boy and a white handkerchief would signal a girl baby. A Mr. Wood and a bridge carpenter, the hopeful fathers, were waiting at the depot to send a telegram at the first sign of the long-awaited signal.

Finally from the home of the carpenter came a white handkerchief that sent the poor carpenter into such a state that he went out and "got roaring drunk". However, a few minutes later another banner fluttered from Mr. Wood's home. This time the banner was red. Needless to say, Mr. Wood was enthusiastically delighted. Mr. Schell kept his word. The infant received a \$1000 in cash and town lots.



One of the oldest landmarks in Schell City was the old flour mill. The structure stood at the corner of the intersection of County Route AA and the MK&T Railroad for 94 years. It was built in the fall of 1871 when the town was platted and was razed in 1965.

In the early part of the 1870's the town was growing. A flour mill was erected in the fall of 1871 and operated by the company of Strong and Brines. The post office was established with Mr. J. Purington as the first postmaster. The school was begun in the fall of 1871 and completed in 1873. Completion of the Methodist Church brought the first church to the town. However, the Baptist had been the first to start a building.

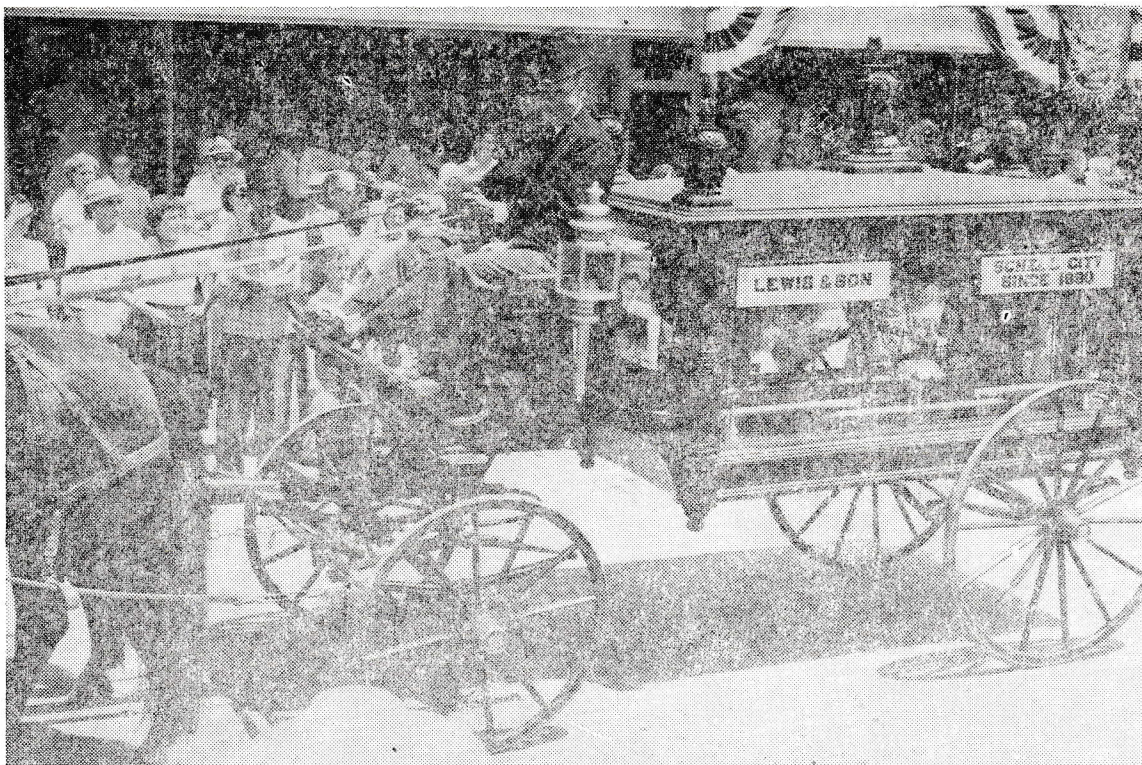
CONGRATULATION TO SCHELL CITY  
ON IT'S 100TH BIRTHDAY

CITIZENS BANK OF APPLETON CITY

APPLETON CITY, MISSOURI

PHONE 816-476-2266





The horse-drawn hearse, owned by the Lewis family is a relic from another era. It has remained with the family since their ancestors entered the undertaking business. Today it has been replaced by a much more sophisticated type of conveyance. However, it is still used for parades. Here Mr. John G. Lewis, the present owner, is shown riding with Mr. Albert Walter driving in the County Centennial Parade, 1955

The businesses concentrated at the northern end of Main Street which led to the ferry and ford across the Osage River. Residents soon found that this was not a satisfactory route for trade because of the difficulty in crossing the "gumbo" bottom at various times. Since the country south and west was settled rapidly and businesses tended to move toward the south end of Main Street, the north end was soon almost deserted.

Quieter days struck Schell in the mid 1870's. Progress and prosperity were halted in 1876. Old timers refer to the year as the "chinch bug year". The chinch bug, a small bug that infests wheat and other grain crops, had moved into the prairie country and practically "taken over". The damage that was done to crops was so extensive that the economy of the community was affected for two years.

One is lead to speculate that the size of the population may have been caused to diminish with the presence of this pest. People were forced to look elsewhere for their livelihood when their crops were destroyed and businesses stagnated.

The town had recuperated from the blow by 1880 and progress was the order of the day. The town was growing once again, business was moving and numerous improvements added appeal. The new decade brought the addition of a bank, known as The Schell City Bank; a public school erected due to the benevolence of the town's great benefactor, Mr. Schell; the newspaper, The Schell City News was established; and additional churches were organized.

On February 8, 1888, Mr. John Lewis, a Kentuckian, moved to Schell City from the Belvoir area and purchased a hardware store and undertaking business. Early in 1890 Mr. Lewis went to Chicago for training in the field of embalming and acquired his mortician's license.

The business still remains in the family, and the hardware store is believed to be housed in the same building purchased by the great grandfather of today's proprietors. The warehouses, however, weren't built until 1906.

---

### COMPLIMENTS OF BEN FRANKLIN

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That decade was not without its trials and tribulations. In 1885 three fires partially devastated Schell City. Records indicate that these conflagrations not only seriously impaired the business of the community and the prosperity the citizens enjoyed, but it created an atmosphere of suspicion and distrust. The fires were not believed to be mere accidents. They are alleged to be the work of an arsonist who wanted to destroy the town entirely. His motive? No one knew. It might have been revenge. Maybe it was for pecuniary gain. The motive could simply have been innate depravity.

Nonetheless, the fires did occur. The first was on a quiet sabbath day in late March. A half block of business houses on the west side of Main Street was wiped out including a livery stable, a dry goods store and a saloon. Two months later a fire on the opposite side of the street consumed three more buildings. One of these was the "Boss" Hotel owned by Mr. Joe Brizendine.

Just four and a half months after the first fire, the most catastrophic of the three occurred. It was 11 p.m. on August 3rd when fire was discovered in the general merchandise establishment of P. F. Westphal. This business was located between First and Second Streets on the west side of Main Street. The fire spread to businesses on either side of Westphal's store until the entire west side of Main Street was destroyed.

Chaos reigned over the streets as the citizens watched their town being reduced to ashes. Everyone, men, women and children, worked to extinguish the blazing inferno. The fire truck, which had been purchased a short time before, was on the scene. However, lack of a sufficient amount of water made the equipment agonizingly useless.

When the fire was finally brought under control, the damage was estimated at approximately \$65,000. There was \$40,000 worth of insurance. It was a most traumatic experience. The History of Vernon County 1887 purported that "the fire was in proportion as calamitous to Schell City as the great fire of 1871 was to Chicago."

In spite of the adversities that had beset the village the population of Schell City in 1887 is reported by Cram's World Atlas to have been 1,200. The same Atlas reports that her neighbor, El Dorado Springs was only 275, while Walker was 600 and Nevada 1,913. There is some speculation that it may have been as high as 2,000. However there is no concrete evidence that confirms this report.

For some eight years fire seemed to dominate the history of the young town. It had hardly begun to be rebuilt after the devastation in 1885 when a fire of somewhat lesser magnitude struck the crippled village in 1889. The destroyed property amounted to fifteen to twenty thousand dollars.

The citizens were a determined lot. They rebuilt and dreams for prosperity were renewed. Spirits were never dampened for long. They were also very proud of their town and the future looked bright to them. The railroad was an important feature. It had helped bring the town into existence and the citizens felt it would make the town an important metropolis in time. The town had been given the name "Queen of the Osage Valley" due

to its progressive nature and its prominence in the county.

In 1889 it was one of the most important shipping points along the MK and T railroad. Seven hundred to one thousand box cars of freight were shipped from here annually.

In March 1890 another business was added to Schell City. The Schell City Butter and Cheese Factory began its operations.

In 1891, 1892, and 1893, Fourth of July celebrations were held in the old Duck Park which was located in the southeastern part of town. A parade, speeches, a band and glee club performances were part of the programs enjoyed by crowds of five to seven thousand people.

Schell City had been unfortunate in having four fires in its first twenty years. However, the little city had not seen the last of this destructive force. September 14, 1893, a spark from the kitchen of the Trout Hotel was blown by hot prairie winds to the Child's building which was soon a firey mass. The winds and a lack of adequate fire fighting equipment doomed the mid-western town. All buildings including several homes in the northeastern quarter of town were completely reduced to ashes. Equipment from Nevada was called for by telegraph. However, it was too late. Many people were left homeless and destitute. They had lost everything. Only one hotel, probably the Commercial Hotel or "Brick Hotel", was left and it was filled to capacity.

---

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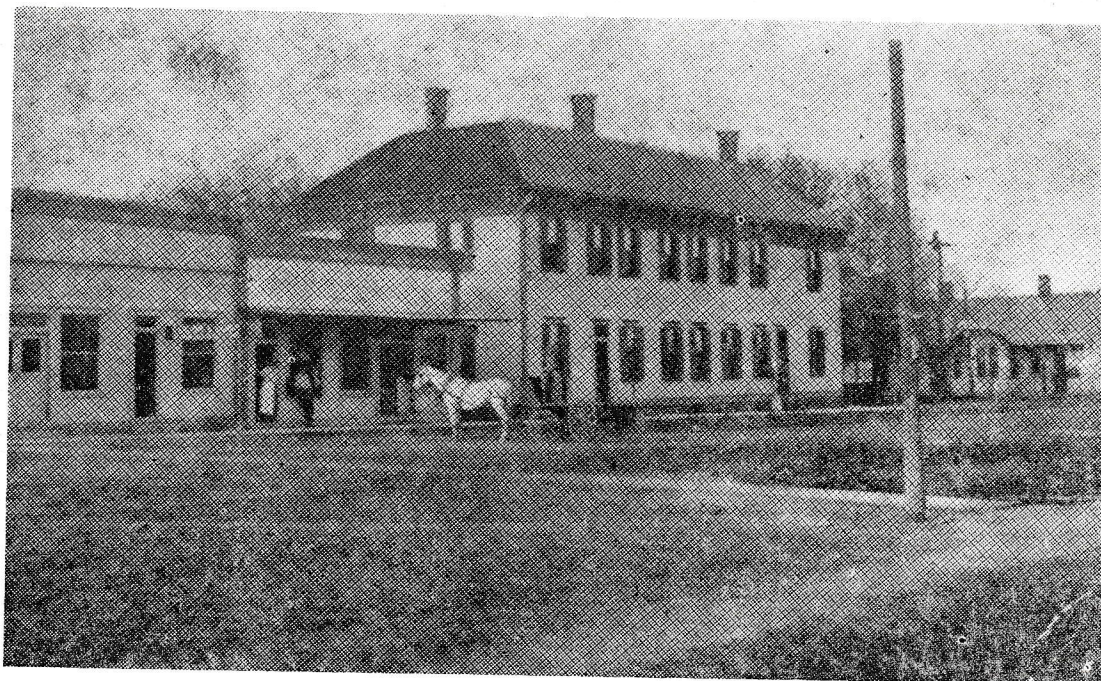
"FOCUS IS ON FASHION"

Butler - Nevada - El Dorado Springs, Missouri



Property loss involved thirty buildings including two hotels, Trout House and the Duck House, two livery stables; Hoagland and Jones blacksmith shop; G. W. McFarland residence; Crawford and McManus Barber Shop; a tank house owned by Mr. Duck; M. L. Stewart's blacksmith shop; the McKenzie house; Mrs Hoagland's house; the DeVaul residence; the section house owned by Dr. A. Harvey; the rail-

road depot; Maus Bros. warehouse; the lime house owned by Hurley Lumber Company of Butler; A. Key's grain houses; the city jail and pagoda; two barns; and residences owned by John Cottrell, L. B. Cottrell and Mrs. Schibner. Of course the buildings were only part of the loss. Household goods, cattle and personal property were devoured by the flames.



The Duck Hotel was the scene of many parties and balls in the early days of Schell City. The owner, Mr. Oliver Duck, owned much property in the area including Duck Park.

CONGRATULATION TO SCHELL CITY

ON IT'S 100<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY

**Sibley & Thatch**



EL DORADO SPRINGS, MISSOURI

CONGRATULATION TO SCHELL CITY

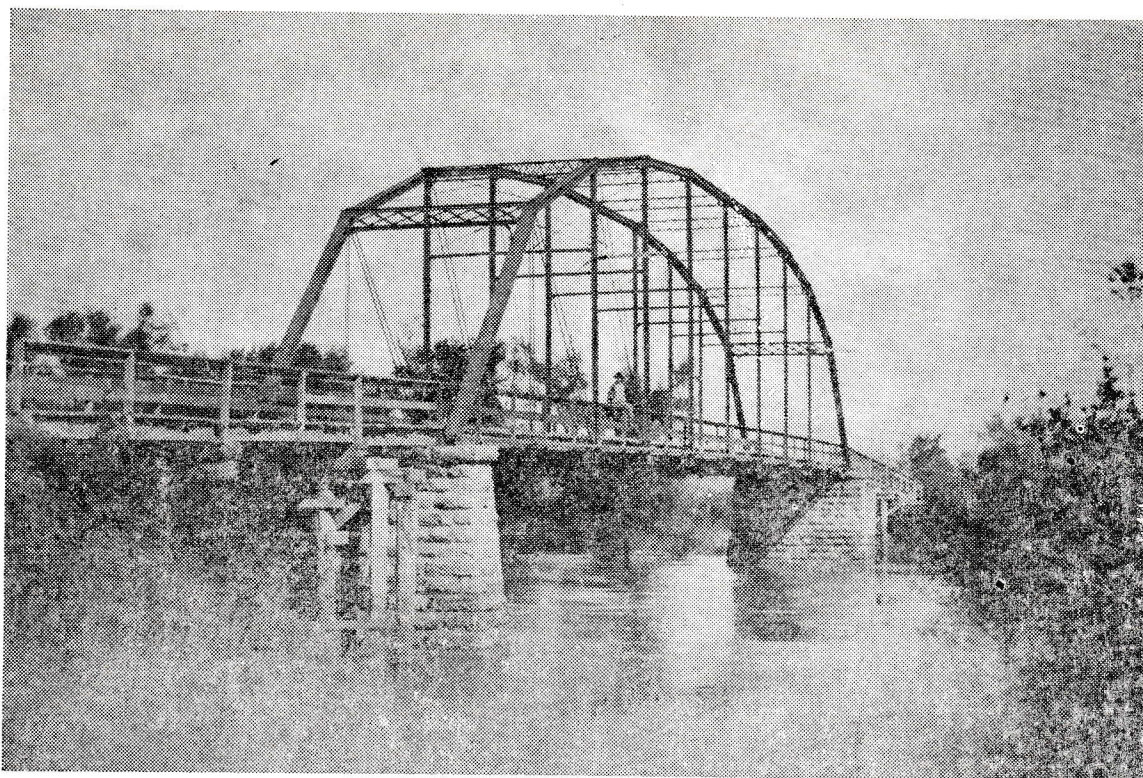
ON IT'S 100<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY

**Tri - County**

**State Bank**

EL DORADO SPRINGS, MISSOURI





The first wagon bridge across the Osage River was built in 1891. It was completed on May 21st and collapsed on June 1st. Of course, the structure had to be rebuilt. Although repairs have been made at different times, the basic bridge is still there. However it no longer serves the wagon, but the automobile instead.

Some of the earliest copies of the Schell City News predecessor of the Schell City Ledger, has served as an invaluable resource to the writer. A few excerpts from the story about this fire in 1893 were considered to be priceless.

"The south bound passenger train succeeded in getting dinner but that was all as the dining room girls went to save their clothes."

"The pagoda made one of the prettiest fires viewed in this city."

"Depot Agent Curtis is comfortably installed in a box car and is ready to hand out tickets for the World's Fair or receive messages from Europe."

"Lute Lewis came very near falling in with the roof of the Child's building."

"Several people fought fire on Main Street unaware of the fact that their homes were burning at the same time."

"Gip Cunningham lost a pair of socks and necktie."

"With one more fire like yesterday's and there would be no Schell City."

"The fire has made us late, but it is not our fault and we expect to be excused."

The fires had taken their toll; however the spirit of the early pioneers was strong and the town recuperated.



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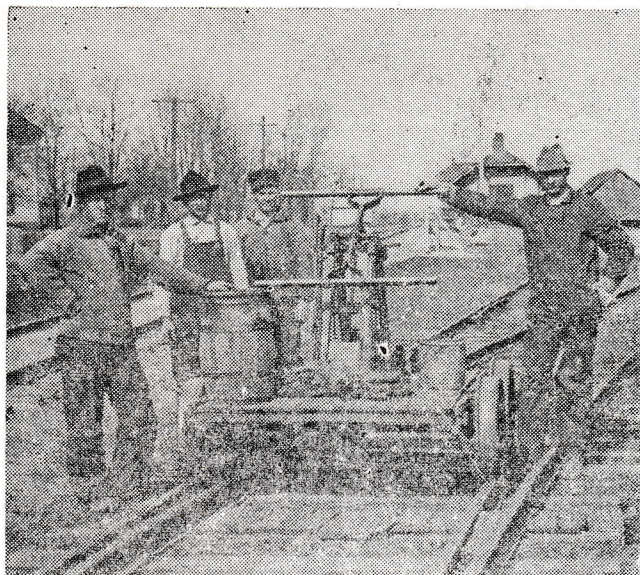
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Railroad workmen kept the MK&T lines in good repair through Schell City. Freight and passenger service were available to residents for many years.

The railroad kept the town booming in the early stages of the town's growth. Passenger trains made regular stops at the depot and passengers enjoyed their noon meals at the well known Duck House (hotel). The cuisine of the Duck House was a special treat for tourists on the excursion trains.

Five separate hotels provided accommodations for travelers. Only the Commercial Hotel, formerly the Hudson House and originally the Harvey House,

still remain. This hotel became the Commercial Hotel in 1905 when it was purchased by Mr. S. McCombs. Today's resident is much more familiar with the name the "Brick Hotel," which is used as a private residence. It is believed to be the oldest building in town today and celebrates its 100th anniversary this year.

Research for such a work as this is not easy because one must rely almost entirely on written records for the earliest events of the city. However, one of the local businessmen had contact with a former resident who had lived here as a school boy in the 1890 decade. He vividly recalled the fire that nearly wiped out Schell City. In addition he gave a description of the town as he remembered it until September 1894. Working from the railroad intersection at County Route AA northward, Mr Fred Schumacher reports that the business area consisted of the south pagoda, W. F. Tussey's photo studio, a grocery store owned by R. E. Coble, the butcher's shop owned by Pete Tyan, Lewis Hardware, the U. S. Post Office, Hahn's Clothing Store, Dr. Potter's Drug Store, Livery Stable, Toedt's Hardware, Crawford's barber shop (where one could get a hair cut for 15c and a shave for a dime), The Schell City Bank, a saloon and Oliver Duck's Hotel. There were many other buildings housing the residents of the village, the school, churches and probably other businesses, but their locations were vague.

The written records are incomplete and frequently very sketchy. The writers found periods of the history almost completely unmentioned. No special events are recorded. Therefore, one may assume



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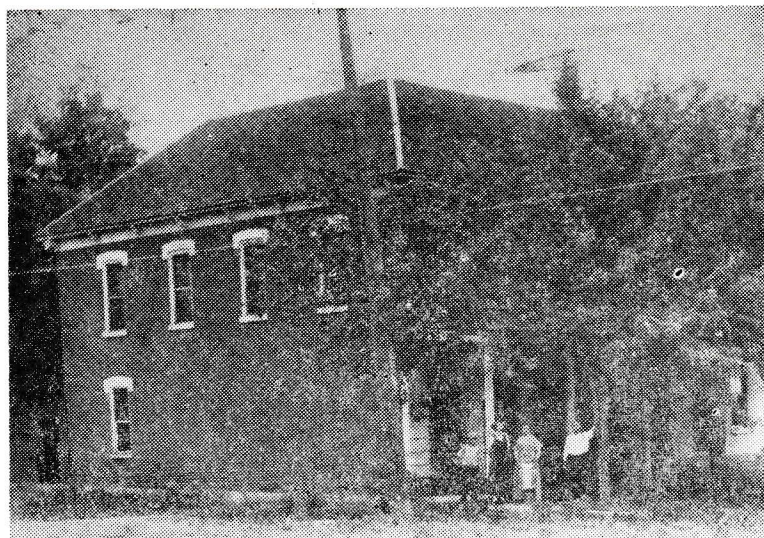
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The old Brick Hotel has had many owners since its beginning in 1871 as the Harvey House.

that business was good and the residents were living the typical lives of American families for the period.

The latter part of the 1890's was such a time. After the fire of 1893, people evidently rebuilt. For a few years the memory of the fire was firmly implanted in their minds and their intentions of taking measures to prevent a repeat of such disaster were good. However, there is no indication that any specific action was actually ever taken.

The turn of the century brought a few changes to Schell City. In the fall of 1902 an annual Street Fair and Horse Show was started. Residents enjoyed a carnival with rides to thrill the fun-seekers. There were exhibits of crafts, canning, and farm products. Highlighting the events was a horse show. There were nineteen classes for which prizes were awarded.

The Street Fair, which served as Homecoming for former residents, was a forerunner of the Fall Festival which began in 1954. The Street Fair was dropped and when the event was renewed the name and events were changed from the original.

Schell Citizens have always sought out entertainment. They were resourceful. Citizens frequently provided their own plays, entertainment for picnics, and music for dancing in those days. A typical example was a play entitled, "A Noble Outcast" presented in 1907 by some of the leading residents of the town. The classical drama was performed at the Christian Church before a sell-out crowd.

Businesses, of course, changed owners as the years passed. The early days of 1900 were no exception. The company of Shulenberger and Culberston sold their drayage business to the Peters Brothers in 1905. It is considered worthwhile to describe a dray and its purpose for those unfamiliar with this means of conveyance. A dray was a low, horse-drawn wagon without permanent sides. It was used to transport freight from the train to the merchant. Draying could have been a most profitable business.

In the same year a two story building stood on the east side of Main Street. This building was sold to George DeVaul who rented the lower room to Preston and Metzger for a pool hall.

## CONGRATULATION TO SCHELL CITY

ON IT'S 100<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY

EL DORADO PLUMBING & HEATING

139 W. Spring

El Dorado Springs, Mo.

## COMPLIMENTS OF

CARL'S GUN SHOP

CARL McCALLISTER, phone 876-4168

Federal License No. 43-852 Guns - Ammunition

Life Member N.R.A. Bought - Sold - Traded

Foreign Ammunition, Loading Tools & Components

Route 1, Box 131

El Dorado Springs, Mo.





Second Street in 1910 was lined with trees. It was unpaved, very wide and bore the tracks of numerous horse-drawn carriages. One looks west in this picture to the steeple of the old Christian Church in the distance.

Reading the Schell City News dated February 9, 1905, the writer found that "The Doyle Telephone System of this city was sold the later part of the week to J. E. White and M. P. Kinkead". The telephone, one of the space age's most common conveniences, had played an early role in Schell City's development.

1907 saw the J. E. B. Powell grocery store change owners. The new owner was Mr. Elvis Marlow.

Today's resident conducts his banking business at an establishment organized in 1910. The first meeting of the stockholders was on December 12 to organize The Farmers State Bank with a capital stock of \$10,000.

The founding stockholders were J. H. Maus, Al-

mon Maus, John Lewis, John L. Maus, Lute Lewis, Ross A. Hendon, J. R. Daily, J. Boatright, A. J. Boatright, J. R. Colson, W. L. Pepper, E. D. Crabb, J. L. Maus, George M. Bauer, Clinton Mead and J. M. Eisenhower.

J. H. Maus served as President of the bank until his death. W. L. Pepper was Vice-President and Almon H. Maus was cashier.

The physical appearance of the bank was changed in 1969 when it underwent an extensive remodeling project.

By 1911 Schell City's population had decreased to only 600. The History of Vernon County 1911 declared Schell City was a good place to live and the best town in southwest Missouri. The townspeople

#### COMPLIMENTS OF

### ADAM'S GRILL

Breakfast - Plate Lunches - Short Orders

"WE SERVE TO SERVE AGAIN"

Open Monday thru Saturday 6 a.m. to 10 a.m.

Closed Sunday

Hwy. 54 E. ph. 876- 3021 El Dorado Springs, Mo.

#### COMPLIMENTS OF

### H & J BARGAIN BARN

Bargains in Wearing Apparel

PHONE 876-4030

Park & Hayden Sts.

El Dorado Springs, Mo.





Ward Ijams holds a twenty-five pound catfish caught from the Osage River near Halley's Bluff. The Osage and the wildlife refuge maintained by the State of Missouri are a sportsman's paradise.

contended that there was no better school in the county. The Presbyterian, Christian, Methodist, Baptist and Catholic Churches were represented. Every kind of business existed in the town except a saloon or gambling house. The people were proud that their town was free of these degrading and immoral influences.

In addition to all the pleasant things about the town, citizens enjoyed excellent hunting and fishing conditions in the area. There were several lakes east and north of town that were well stocked with fish, as well as the Osage River on the north. In the fall ducks were very common. Hunters came from quite a distance to enjoy their sport.

COMPLIMENTS OF

SIMMONE'S DRIVE IN

EL DORADO SPRINGS, MO.

According to the History of 1911 the businessmen of Schell City were: "one flouring mill, conducted by W. R. Zener; one repair shop, conducted by E. A. Robison; one automobile and engine shop, conducted by J. F. Watts and Son; one produce house, conducted by W. F. Young; three blacksmith shops, conducted by J. N. Hoagland, J. F. Maus, and M. L. Stewart; one harness shop, conducted by J. A. Thompson; two hardware and implement stores, conducted by John Dade and Co. and John Lewis and son; two banks, The Farmers State Bank and the Schell City Bank; one meat market, Cameron Ditty; one opera house, owned by the Schell City Band; one nicely arranged post office, J. G. B. Marquis, postmaster; four general merchandise establishments, Darrow Merchantile Company, A. F. Coble and Co., Cunningham and Bros., and Kinkead and White; one department store, by G. Pape and

COMPLIMENTS OF

PARK HOTEL

Newly decorated with homelike atmosphere

200 S. Main ph. 876-4918 El Dorado Springs, Mo.

COMPLIMENTS OF

INTERNATIONAL SHOE CO.

EL DORADO SPRINGS, MO.

COMPLIMENTS OF

EL DORADO SPRINGS SUN

CEDAR COUNTY'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

EL DORADO SPRINGS, MO.

COMPLIMENTS OF

ISABELL - CAROTHERS FUNERAL HOME

TELEPHONE (417) 876-2300

312 S. Main

El Dorado Springs, Mo.





One of the earliest automobiles in Schell City was owned by the Kinkeads. The owners of these first vehicles were very pleased and proud of their new possessions.

Co.; two drug stores, W. H. Potter, and Curl and Millikan; one dentist, Dr. E. T. McKim; one veterinary surgeon, (Dr. J. M. Eisenhower;) four physicians, Drs. G. M. Ross, H. C. Jarvis, A. C. Curl, and J. R. Colson; one restaurant, by J. R. Keeney and Son; two barber shops, J. H. Keeney and Son, and Jess Biggs; one auto livery and feed stable, by M. P. Kinkead; two hotels, R. T. Shields and John Hirni; one wall paper store, by Murray Ross; four real estate firms, Sam B. Vickers, Schell City Realty Company, Garland S. Johnson, and Harris and Dudley; one bakery and soda fountain, by John Hirni;

one power printing office by Chas. B. Vickers and E. W. Jones; one grain buyer, John Boatright; two firms of stock buyers, Ditty and Ditty, and Young and Kinkead; one band, and a good one too; three transfers, Tom Keeney, Gus Peters, and Sam Jinkins; one telephone system of 300 phones, by E. W. Jones; one lumber yard, by Logan - Moore; one grist mill, by J. F. Watts and Son." There were carpenters, painters, plasterers and stone masons. The newspaper, "The Schell City News" was the oldest paper in Vernon County.

There were several secret societies in Schell City

COMPLIMENTS OF

# Producers Grain Co.

EL DORADO SPRINGS, MO.

## NEVADA, MO.

Bran  
Shorts  
Egg Mash  
Corn Chop  
Pig and Sow  
Vita Salt

## WALKER, MO.

Cattle Fattner  
Dairy  
Hog Pellets  
Corn  
Oats  
Laying Pellets



COMPLIMENTS OF

# **Sac Osage Electric Coop**

EL DORADO SPRINGS, MO.

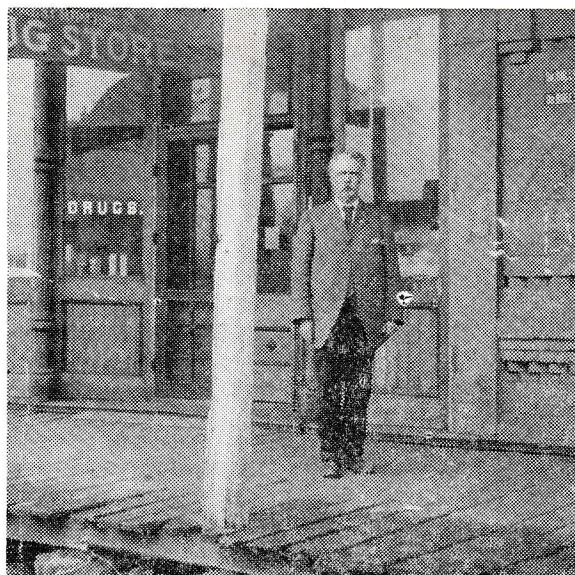
SERVING

**4850 Rural Customers  
in 8 Counties**

**“ Owned by Those We Serve ”**

PHONE 876 - 2423





Dr. A. C. Curl was photographed in front of his pharmacy. Dr. Carl was one of five doctors in Schell City at the peak of the town's prosperity in about 1910.

in 1911, including the Masonic Lodge, the Odd Fellows, Modern Woodman of America, the Woodmen of the World, the Order of the Eastern Star, and the K. L. of S.

Some Schell Citians were very disgruntled when the KATY time schedule was changed in 1911. They contended it would be difficult for residents to get to Nevada and back in a day's time with the new schedule. One can hardly appreciate the problem until he realizes that most residents had no means of transportation other than the horse and buggy.

COMPLIMENTS OF

# Nevada Supply Co.

(Gene) PICKELL

COMPLETE SELECTION OF

PLUMBING    HARDWARE    HEATING

612 East Walnut    Nevada, Mo.    Phone 667-3433

Since this was not a suitable and comfortable way of going any distance, the passenger train could carry one to Nevada in comfort where he could shop, conduct his business or just enjoy a day on the town and catch the train back to Schell City when he had finished. The round trip in a day would cost him about \$1.00.

The train also provided transportation for another local business. An anonymous couple came to the area and began a business that involved collecting mussels from the Osage River. People were able to collect these water creatures along the banks by the bucketful. The shell was cleaned and then loaded on a car for factories in Iowa, where they were used in pearl button manufacturing business.

There were protest movements back in those "good old days". The Women's Christian Temperance Union held meetings to keep out saloons and

CONGRATULATION TO SCHELL CITY

ON THEIR CENTENNIAL

## Sharps Store

"The Store of Better Values"

WEST SIDE OF SQUARE

NEVADA, MO.

COMPLIMENTS OF  
THE CLOTHES CLOSET

NECCHI SEWING MACHINES

116 N. Main ph. 876-2556 El Dorado Springs, Mo.

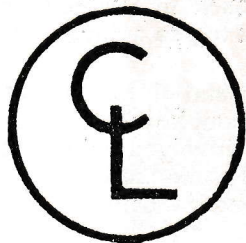
COMPLIMENTS OF

CAGEL'S

FURNITURE MART

Hwy. 32 S. ph. 876-3317 El Dorado Springs, Mo.





CONGRATULATION TO SCHELL CITY

ON IT'S 100<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY

# Community Lumber Co., Inc.

NEVADA, MISSOURI

417 - 667 - 6071

EL DORADO SPRINGS, MISSOURI

417 - 876 - 4141

YOUR SATISFACTION IS OUR SUCCESS

---

CONGRATULATION TO SCHELL CITY

ON IT'S 100<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY

**Citizen's  
State Bank**

Washington at Cherry

Nevada, Mo.

"THE BANK THAT DOES

MORE TO SERVE YOU'..

Member F.D.I.C.

CONGRATULATION TO SCHELL CITY

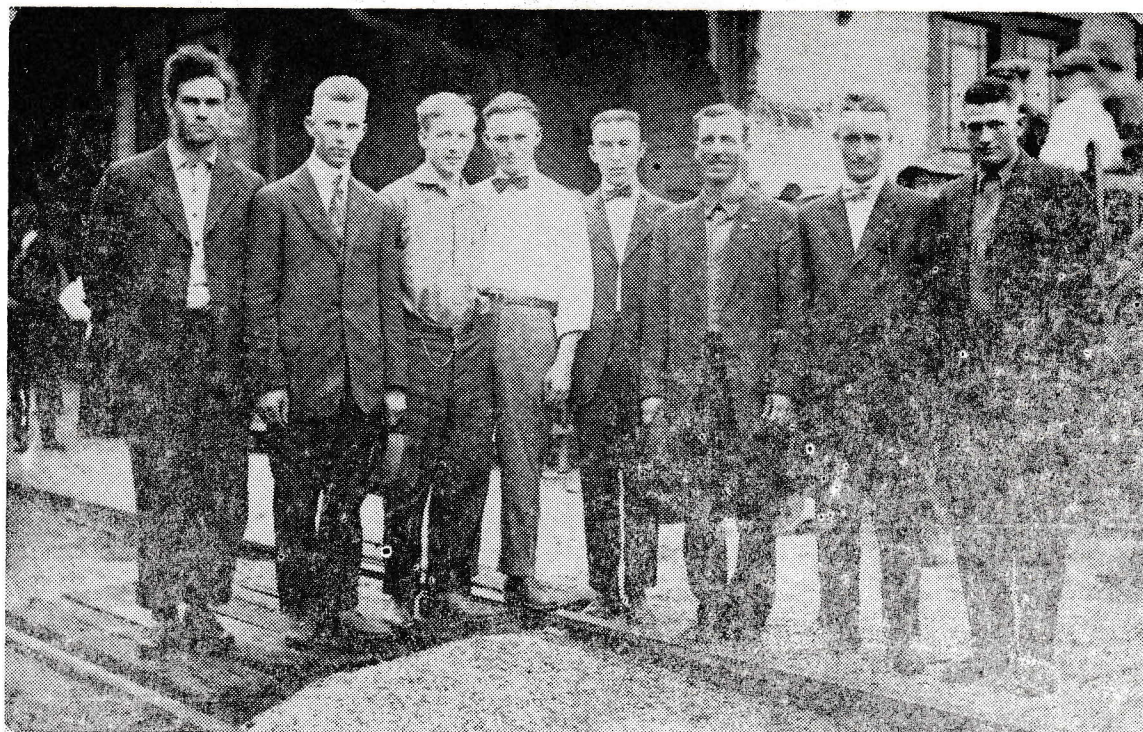
ON IT'S 100<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY

**1st  
National Bank**

Member F.D.I.C.

NEVADA, MISSOURI





Among the first young men to leave the area for action in World War I was (left to right) Henry Verdon, Fred Dade, Bill White, Arthur Shomer, Fred K-eney, Marshal Roberts, Demy Roberts, and Wess McClimans.

other vices that would tend to demoralize the minds of the people in their little village. This organization was hard at work in 1913. Their work was completed in 1919 with ratification of the eighteenth amendment to the federal constitution.

Business transpired as usual, the usual little problems were taken for granted and the protests were just another event. News of the United State's entry into the first World War, however, struck Schell Citians with fear, worry, and sadness. Their young men would be going away to war. Their lives would be jeopardized and the future was doubtful.

Although the war was really no surprise to our country, since it had started in Europe in 1914 and American intervention was conceivable, it struck deeply into the heart of America. Americans had hoped that a world conflict could be avoided. Their hopes against war were strengthened with the first administration of President Woodrow Wilson from 1913-1917. The campaign slogan for his second administration was, "He kept us out of war." Americans hoped against hope that their leader could find some diplomatic miracle that would keep them out of war. Hopes dimmed however, when Germany resumed unrestricted submarine warfare against all shipping vessels including American. The country had attempted to remain neutral to the explosive situation in Europe. They could no longer do so. April 2, 1917, "Good Friday" to Christians all over the world, Woodrow Wilson went before the Congress of the United States and asked for a declaration of war against Germany. His plea was that "the world must be made safe for democracy".

Schell Citians, like all other Americans, had to hotel yard so that the passengers could enjoy the prepare for war. There would be a war time economy to cope with, and Americans anticipated an

early truce.

In 1918 a large company of soldiers traveling from Pennsylvania to Texas for training were delayed in their journey when six cars of the train in which they were riding derailed just outside Schell City's town limit. About six hundred passengers were reported to be riding in the train and only one was slightly injured. The citizens were all excited. Overnight accommodations and food had to be prepared for them. The Red Cross quickly moved in to take worship service. Every facet of the village was care of the passengers.

Sunday evening church services were held in the alerted and any service that was needed was made available.

One of today's most common conveniences, electricity, came to Schell City in 1919. At the time of its introduction to the town only about twenty residents were able to subscribe to the services. The services were provided locally and were not as reliable as today.

Business changes are not an uncommon occurrence. J. W. Sharp came into Schell City in 1920 and purchased a stock of merchandise from the Darrow Bros., who were grocery store proprietors. Sharp had been a successful merchant in Harwood for twenty-five years before taking the business in Schell City. The business was one of a chain of businesses owned by the Sharps.

COMPLIMENTS OF  
VINYABD FARM & HOME SUPPLY, INC.

"Your best buys in Farm Supplies"

Phone 667-2910

Nevada, Missouri





Dick, Sadie and Billy Dean Dickbreder operated a thriving grocery and cafe business for forty-three years in Schell City. Their business was temporarily interrupted when the fire in 1954 destroyed the building in the background. A new store was built and the venture continued.

Another new business came to Schell in 1927 in the form of Dick's Cafe and Grocery. Mr. W. C. Dickbreder came to Schell City from Rockville with his wife, Sadie, and son, Billy Dean. They opened the grocery store and cafe that remained in business for forty-three years. Mr Dickbreder was a very versatile man. Prior to opening the grocery business he had taught for eleven years, as well as working as a mechanic.

The Dickbreders worked long, hard hours at

their business. Regular coffee drinkers appreciated the early morning hours maintained by the Dickbreders until the business was sold in 1970 after the death of the proprietor.

The community had hardly recovered from the blow of the war which had claimed the lives of 5 local men, when the stock market crash of October 1929 slapped all Americans with stinging impact. Businesses were forced to close their doors. Those who were able to remain open suffered heavy losses.

"IN MEMORIAM"

WORLD WAR I

Fred Fastabend

Rankin Keeney

Joe Philapi

Harry Starkey

John Yowell

CONGRATULATIONS SCHELL CITY

ON YOUR FIRST 100 YEARS

GUTHRIE MOTORS INC.

PUTTING YOU FIRST IN A BIG WAY!

"Your Chevrolet-Buick Dealer"

224 E. Walnut Phone 667-7891 Nevada, Mo.

CONGRATULATIONS SCHELL CITY

ON YOUR FIRST 100 YEARS

ARMITAGE APPLIANCE AND HARDWARE

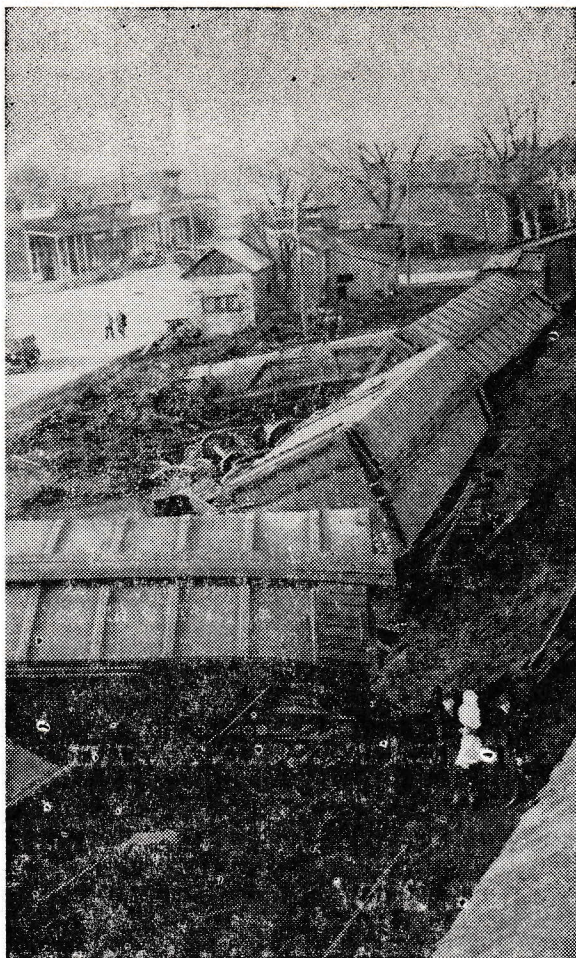
We are proud that we could

share in your last 25

NEVADA, MO.

COMPLIMENTS OF  
MILSTER FUNERAL HOME  
NEVADA, MISSOURI





The train derailment in 1935 spilled new cars and molasses along the railroad right-of-way in Schell City.

In the early 1930's the Schell City Bank bowed to the depression. Like many other banks across the country it closed and some depositors lost their entire life's savings. Those were the "good old days" prior to the protection of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.

Many people were out of work and they were willing to do anything to earn money to feed their families. Schell City's parents and grandparents recall that men worked for an incredible fifty cents a day. A few were luckier. They made as much as a dollar a day, if they furnished their own lunch.

People did not enjoy the happy life that Schell Citians had once known. The war had made deep furrows on the social life and those furrows were deepened with the disastrous effects of the depression.

One can only imagine that anything that would bring excitement and break the weary, feeling of despair that had befallen the citizens, would be a welcome change. That excitement came in the form of another train wreck. The train was reported to be passing through town one morning in 1935, when several cars left the rails and catapulted through the air while stunned citizens watched helplessly in disbelief. Young men who observed the derailment saw the train cars come off the tracks like toys

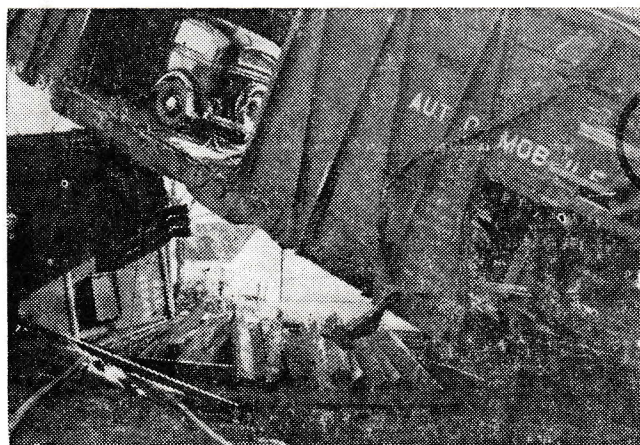
and separately break apart bearing their cargo of new model automobiles and molasses. For days the ditch along the tracks was filled with the sticky mess, and farmers came from miles around to haul it away.

The country and its citizens survived the hardships of the depression. Schell City was no exception. After all, Schell City was experienced in survival against overwhelming odds. The residents must have deeply felt President Franklin Roosevelt's message to the country that advised the citizens that "we have nothing to fear, but fear itself." Schell Citians, like all Americans, were a tough lot. Fires, floods, depression and war could not destroy the stamina of a determined people.

The population of Schell City had decreased from 450 in 1930 to 400 in 1940. Of course, it had gradually declined for several years. It is difficult to know exactly what caused the decline; however, one can speculate that the decline occurred as the result of the decline of the railroad's use and popularity. Trucks, cars and other modes of transportation have reduced the need for the railroad. When the railroads suffered as a result of the new age, the small town suffered from the effect. The railroad had made the town grow and prosper. It is natural, therefore, to assume that the town might very well decline with the railroad.

The decade of the '20's and '30's were turbulent ones. The '40's didn't seem to start much better. War was again brewing in Europe. A cloud hung over the American people as they waited anxiously and prayed their President could lead them around involvement.

Sunday morning December 7, 1941 dawned quietly for people in hundreds of small towns like Schell City. People prepared for church and a quiet day with the family and friends. The air of Christmas had put people in a holiday spirit. However, it was not to be a truly merry Christmas that year. As the boats and planes rested tranquilly in their docks and on runways at Pearl Harbor, Japan launched a vicious surprise attack on the unsuspecting fleet located in the Pacific. Americans were angry, stunned.



Automobiles were transported inside box cars from the assembly plants to the retailers for sales. Those carried aboard this train may have needed some body and fender repair before delivery to the new owner.





The scene of the derailment was a site that took everyone in town to the tracks for an examination of the wreck.

ned and saddened by the Japanese move. It was only a matter of hours until the country was officially declared in war. World War II was on!

Young men from Schell City faced action once again on foreign soil. Civilians all over the country learned about food stamps and gas stamps as products were rationed.

Mothers and fathers carried a feeling of apprehension constantly. It was a heavy burden of fear that a parent with a son in the service of his country carried daily. He realized that at any moment he

might receive a telegram telling him that his son was dead. Dead, as a result of war.

These parents must have breathed a silent prayer of thanks as each day passed and no news of death had darkened their homes. However, not all of the boys from Schell City made it through the war. Some of those who returned carried scars of physical injury, and others carried scars of the mental anguish of war.

Schell Citians no doubt enjoyed some good times during the turbulent three decades but little seems to be recorded or remembered. People are much inclined to remember the outstanding events, both tragic and good. The other lesser events are tucked away in the caverns of their memories.

Those who lived in Schell City in 1942 are not likely to soon forget the train wreck in their town that made headlines. One freight collided with another at the crossing at Second Street. The trains burst into flames and billows of black smoke were visible for some distance.

Citizens were sure that their town was doomed.

People were once again sent into the streets in chaos and confusion. Some were busy in the bucket brigades formed to stop the fire while others rushed to save as much from their businesses as possible.

Only after such an event can people laugh at their behavior when they reflect. They question, "Did I really do that." One such amusing incident is told by Mrs Anna Bell Lewis, wife of the owner of a hardware store. Mrs Lewis recalls that flashlight batteries were very difficult to get at that time because of the war. The hardware store had just received a box of those "hard-to-come-by" batteries. When she left the store, because of the fiery threat, her only thought was to save those batteries. This is precisely what she did. In doing so she left behind the cash and the hunting and fishing licenses which amounted to approximately \$1,000, as well as the numerous other items stocked in the

"IN MEMORIAM"

WORLD WAR II

Joe Osborn

Jack Kabrick





The fiery crash of two trains near Second Street crossing in 1942 will be long remembered by those who were here at that time. This is the scene after the fire had been brought under control.

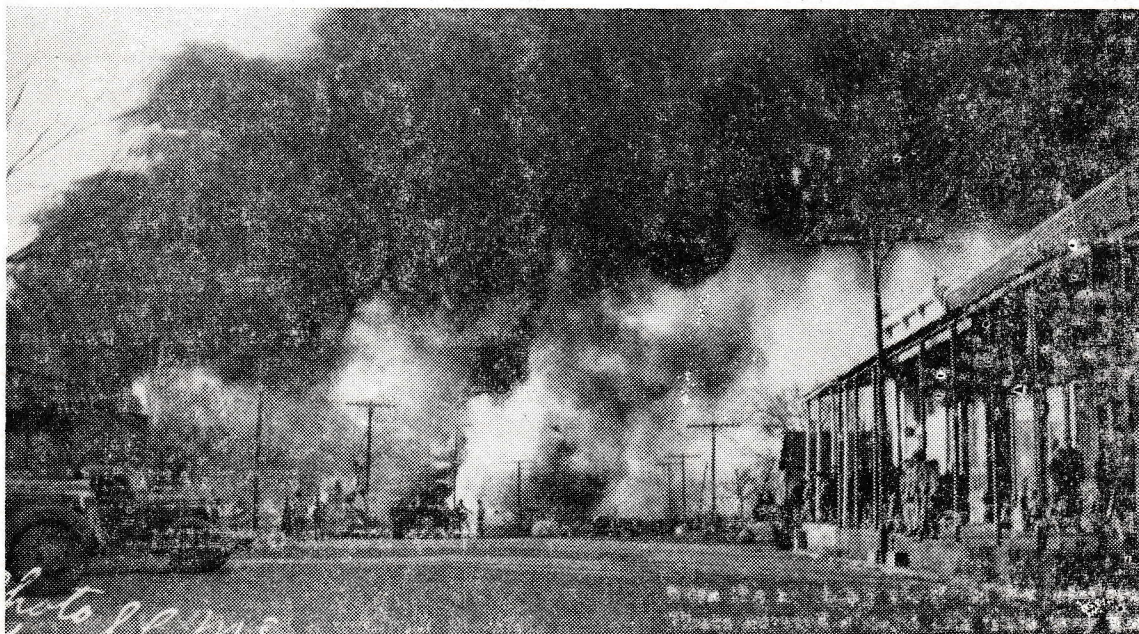
store.

The years rolled around and suddenly a new decade had arrived. It was 1950, the war had ended, and scars could begin to heal. The new decade brought the beginning of some changes toward civic improvements in Schell City. However, these improvements didn't come before another tragic event which may well have prompted the action.

It had been seventy-four years since the last major fire in the business district. August 21, 1954, the morning train passed through at 5 a.m. and

residents recall that he blew his whistle an unusually long time. When an early riser went down town to mail a letter sometime later, he discovered the fire burning on the east side of Main Street and turned in the alarm. No doubt the fire had a noticeable start when the train went by.

Calls for help went out to Appleton City, El Dorado Springs and Nevada. Bucket brigades began fighting the fire which already had a head start. The truck from Nevada never got here because of mechanical difficulties. Firefighters from our neighbor-



Schell City businesses were threatened when the trains were burning at their peak. Residents and businessmen watched and prayed that the firefighters would be able to check the flames.





Time after time the Osage River has overflowed and the back water has stopped traffic from crossing the river bottoms north of town. Farmlands have been flooded and water has come near town. Nothing in recorded history of the area has compared to the flood of 1951. For days the river continued to rise. At one period during that rise, it rose one inch per hour. An aerial view of the flooded area shows Schell City amid the backwater of the Osage River. Residents had only one route out of town when the water crested.

ing towns were credited with saving the Masonic Hall and the old theater which were on either side of the three buildings that were destroyed. J. W. Ditty's grocery. Dick's cafe and grocery, and a hatchery were a total loss.

Nearly \$50,000 damage had been incurred in this latest fire. People were once again reminded of the need for efficient firefighting equipment. Had there

been a fire truck the loss might have been much less.

Some time later a volunteer fire department was organized. Subscriptions were sold, donations were received and the funds were finally available for a fire truck. A used Dodge pumper truck was purchased. Its equipment included a 600 foot hose.

Residents of Schell City were proud of this



Mr. H. H. Barbour's home east of Schell City was totally flooded by the backwater. Residents were forced to evacuate while their homes soaked in the river water.





The water system in Schell City was the sign of progress. Workmen are seen digging the ditches for the lines that would carry water to residences of subscribers in town.

piece of equipment. It signified progress and insurance against heavy loss of fire. They were soon made aware that it would be necessary to improve the town's water system to meet the demands that would be placed upon it when the fire truck was used.

Influential citizens of Schell City recognized the necessity of some industry in the area if the town was to survive. They joined with Mayor Herb Cunningham in seeking the best methods of improving the city's inadequate water system. After much investigation and planning, these leading people were effective in enlisting the support of the city council and the community.

A bond election was held, which was overwhelmingly passed upon by the citizens. The \$86,000 water system was paid for by General Obligation Bonds and Revenue Bonds. Schell City residents began enjoying the results of their efforts in October 1958.

That same year Schell Citians had to bid farewell to one of their oldest and most cherished services, the passenger train. They knew it as the KATY. All over the country the passenger train was becoming a symbol of a past era. People had found the automobile and plane more suitable to their needs. The trains could no longer afford to operate.

Small town residents were hesitant to see their old friend leave. It was such a nice fixture and common part of the community that the loss was a hard blow. Leaders in town planned a ceremony at the depot. There were speeches, the band performed and a large contingent of residents made the last ride to Nevada on May 1, 1958.

COMPLIMENTS OF

KARBE SUPER MARKET

102 E. Austin

Nevada, Mo.

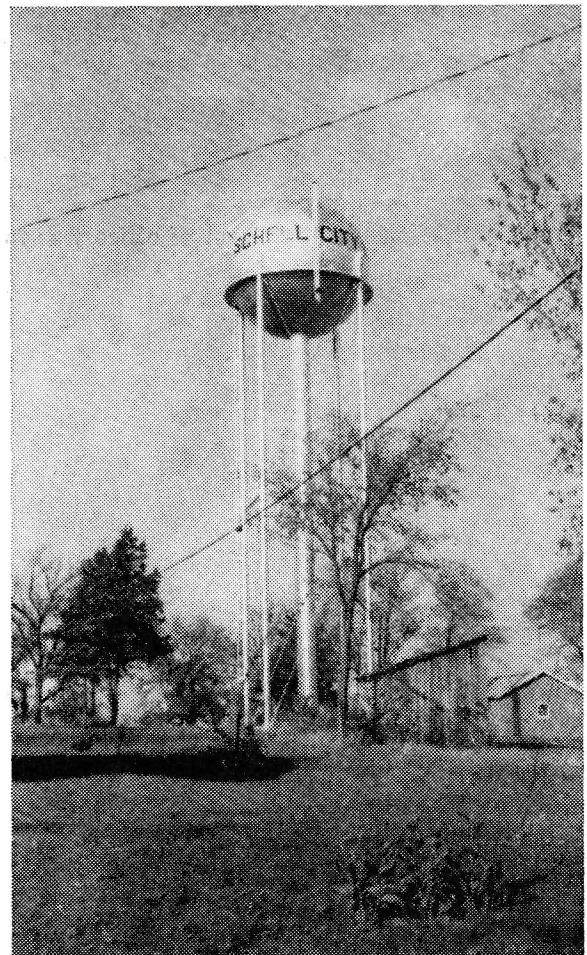
Although the freight trains still run, the community feels that a colorful way of life has passed. The glamour and romance of the early days of the railroad are gone. The vivid memories of those by-gone days are a part of many Schell Citians.

Postal services have existed since the town began in the spring of 1871. There have been twelve postmasters and the post office has had four locations since its establishment.

Postmaster James R. Daily received his appointment to the position in 1941. He has served longer than any other in the position. After taking the office, Mr. Daily recognized the need for improved facilities and up-to-date equipment, then housed in the building between the Hardie Museum and Lewis and Son Hardware. It was not adequate to meet the needs of the community.

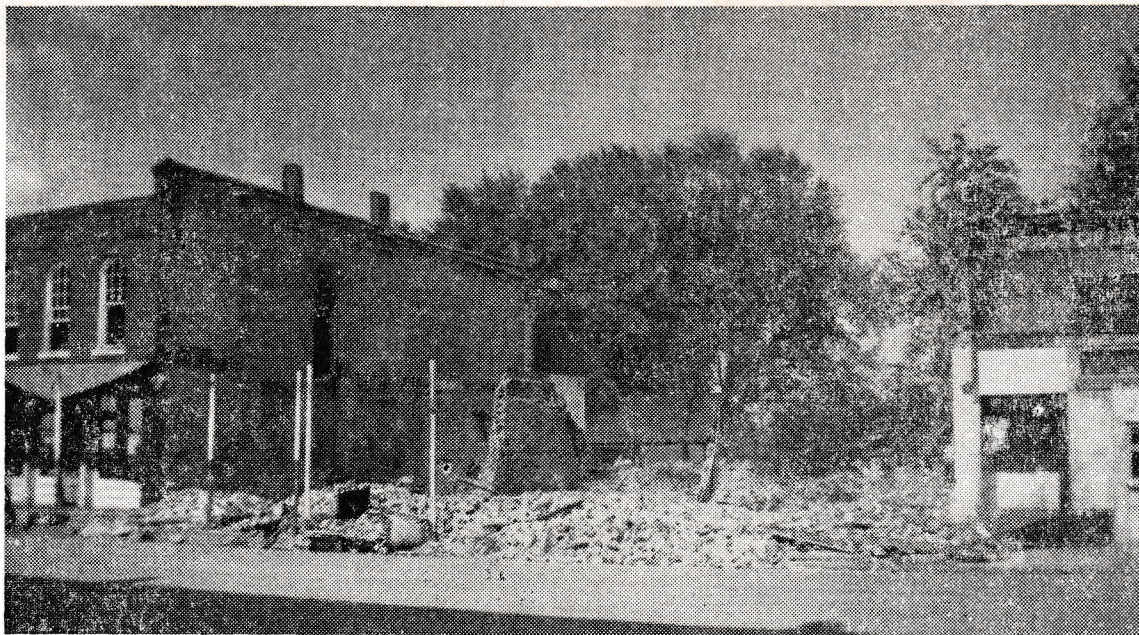
Finally in early 1960 a new post office building was constructed under the Post Office Department's Commercial Leasing Plan. The plan allowed a private individual to finance a building and then lease it to the federal government for housing postal operations. Financiers of the local post office were Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Phillips. The construction blueprint was drawn by a local boy, Mr. Charles Gwyn.

The building, which is located at First and Main Street, was dedicated on May 29, 1960 at a most impressive ceremony. A crowd of some eight hundred



The water tower in Schell City was a symbol of progress that made everyone proud of his town. Its gleaming silvery surface stood proudly for those coming into town to see.





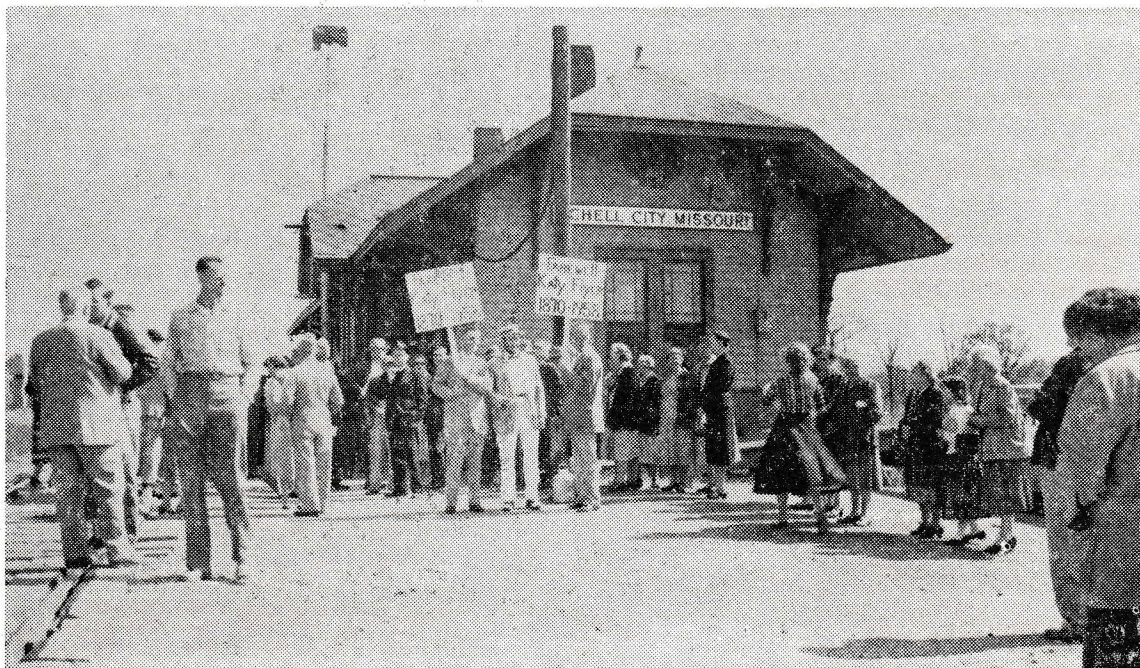
A gaping hole was left on the east side of Main Street when fire swept through the Ditty Grocery, Dick's Cafe and Grocery, and a hatchery. The Masonic Hall on the left was gutted by the conflagration, while a theater on the right was only slightly damaged.

fifty attended the ceremony at which the Honorable John T. Robinette, field service representative from Springfield gave the feature address. Other dignitaries included Judge Jack Pritchard of Nevada and Fourth District Congressman, William Randall.

Much credit has been given to Mr. Warren Haddix for his leadership in civic improvements in the past two decades. In 1958 he was elected mayor. One of his first efforts in that term of office was to lead the citizenry in a campaign for a new medical center.

The citizens realized that certain essential facili-

ties must be made available to attract newcomers. In the late 1950's there was no doctor in town. People traveled to Nevada, El Dorado Springs and Appleton City for medical attention. After completing some studies, civic leaders felt that a most worthwhile project would be the building of a medical center and attracting a doctor to come in to town. A group of people met and organized to get the wheels rolling. The executive committee was headed by Ledgewood Stevens and the publicity committee was led by Mayor Haddix and Howard Sanderson, local newspaper editor.



Schell Citizens gathered to say good-by to the KATY that had served the community for several decades. Many of those gathered here made the last trip to Nevada as part of the farewell ceremonies.





The most up-to-the-minute medical center available was constructed after funds were raised through the selling of shares in the new center. Just six months after the share's sale began, \$25,000 had been raised

Shares were sold in November, 1959 for a building to house the facility. \$35,000 was the goal.

Good news came to the committee when they learned a building that had been used as a model in a Philadelphia medical convention could be purchased at a reasonable sum. The building was considered to be one of the finest in the country. It was purchased. When the building began arriving, members of the community donated their services in assembling and constructing the medical center.

Secretary of State Warren E. Hearnese was guest speaker at the dedication ceremonies of the medical

center on May 22, 1962. Hearnese, of course, went on to become the Governor of the Show-Me state.

In the meantime a Civic Improvement Council had been proposed by Mayor Haddix. The Schell City Board of Aldermen unanimously approved the proposal. The original council included: K. A. Lasley, Lion's Club Representative; Ida Colson, Modern Priscilla's; James R. Daily, Postmaster; Mrs. Margaret Copenhaver, Book Club; Lorree Allison, P.T.A.; Anna Mae Hammond, Modern Mothers; and Arthur Hedges and Blanche Hardie.

The council has done much work for the city dur-

CONGRATULATION TO SCHELL CITY

COMPLIMENTS OF

**Foster**  
**Lumber Co.**

FORMERLY

LOGAN-MOORE

LUMBER CO.

NEVADA, MO.

COMPLIMENTS OF  
RICHARDSON MOTOR COMPANY

"BUY WITH CONFIDENCE"

48 Years in Business

Southwest Missouri's Oldest Chrysler Franchise  
(Since 1923)

Main and Austin Blvd.

Nevada, Missouri

CONGRATULATIONS SCHELL CITY

ON YOUR FIRST 100 YEARS

BOWEN MOTOR ELECTRIC

WE SELL - WE SERVICE

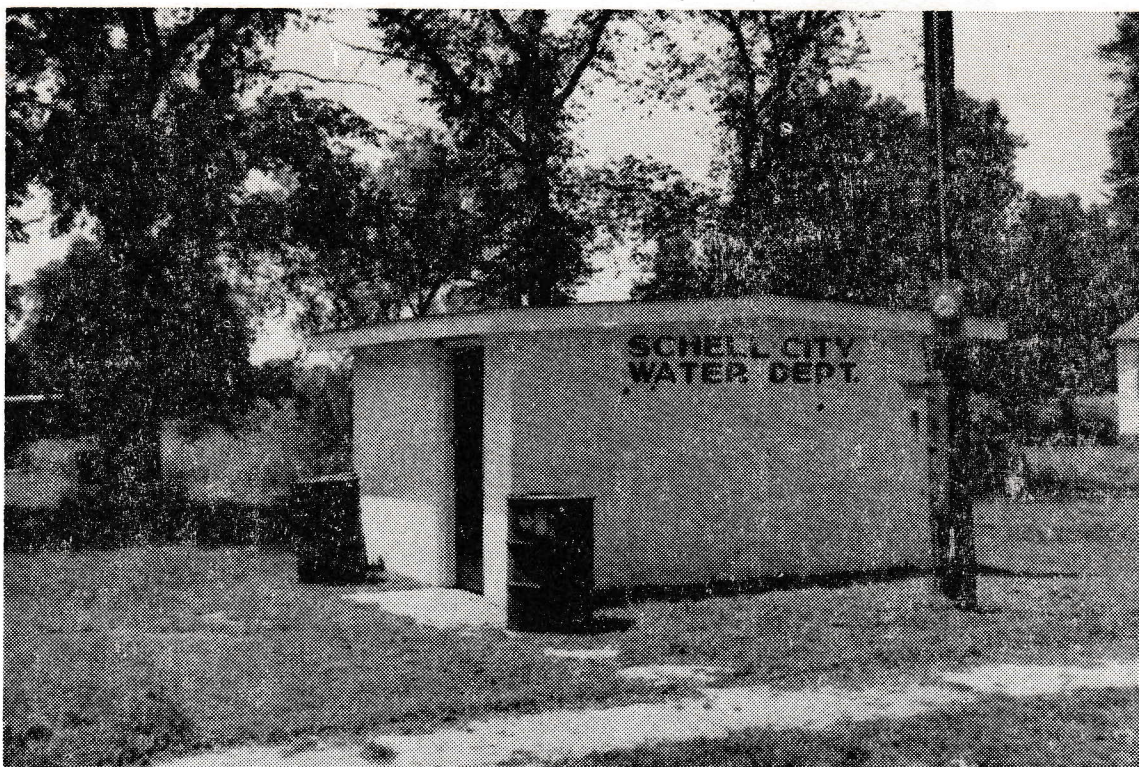
Briggs & Stratton, Clinton, Lawson, Power Products  
Kohler, Lawn Boy, Pioneer, Homelite

Phone 417 - 667 - 5410

Highway 71 N. & Minnesota

Nevada, Mo





This small structure in southeast Schell City houses the city well. It marked the completion of the City water system.

ing its existence. Members helped sell shares for medical building and played a supporting role in finding a doctor. In addition they have helped sponsor the Fall Festival, an annual carnival held on Main Street, helped build a replica of an old pagoda at the north end of Main Street, contributed to the support of the fire truck, and the old band wagon.

Contacts were made for a doctor. In 1963 Dr. Ernest O. Barrett moved into the new facilities and

began practice. Dr. Barrett came from El Dorado Springs. He is assisted in the clinic by his wife who is a registered nurse. After two years (1965) he purchased the medical center. He continues to practice in Schell City, but in his own facility.

Schell Citians have always been proud of their town. An article printed in the Schell City Ledger, March 22, 1962, described the efforts being made to improve the town.

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CONGRATULATIONS SCHELL CITY

ON YOUR FIRST 100 YEARS

BULL - SHIPPERS INC.

NEVADA, MISSOURI

---

CONGRATULATIONS SCHELL CITY

ON YOUR FIRST 100 YEARS

**Capri Bowl**

NEVADA,, MISSOURI

COMPLIMENTS OF

GRAPHIC ARTS STUDIO

119 E. Cherry Phone 667-3232 Nevada, Mo.

---

COMPLIMENTS OF

SPENCER TRACTOR & EQUIPMENT CO.

FARM - INDUSTRIAL EQUIPMENT

930 N. Front Phone 667-2158 Nevada, Mo.

---

COMPLIMENTS OF

FARNHAM'S

CLEANERS & LAUNDRY

214 S. Cedar Phone 667-7656 Nevada, Mo.



... The Mo. Public Service Co. tells us that Schell City has one of the brightest main streets in this part of the state, from the new mercury vapor lights installed on that street a short time ago. The street improvement program is gaining momentum . . . In the next few years our streets should be in excellent condition. . . The present Board of Aldermen plan to install a water treatment system that will greatly reduce or completely eliminate black water and iron stains from our water supply. This system would be approved by the state Board of Health

At one time the leaders in this community turned thumbs down on a chance to get a Christian College and several new enterprises that would of been a great asset to Schell City.

Our City, once again is moving forward and does have a bright future. Are we going to fumble again This Board and Mayor are working hard to improve our town and they realize it is hard to please everyone with a limited budget. If we criticize them let it be constructive criticism.

... Some time ago the town board appointed a Civic Improvement Council to help the City

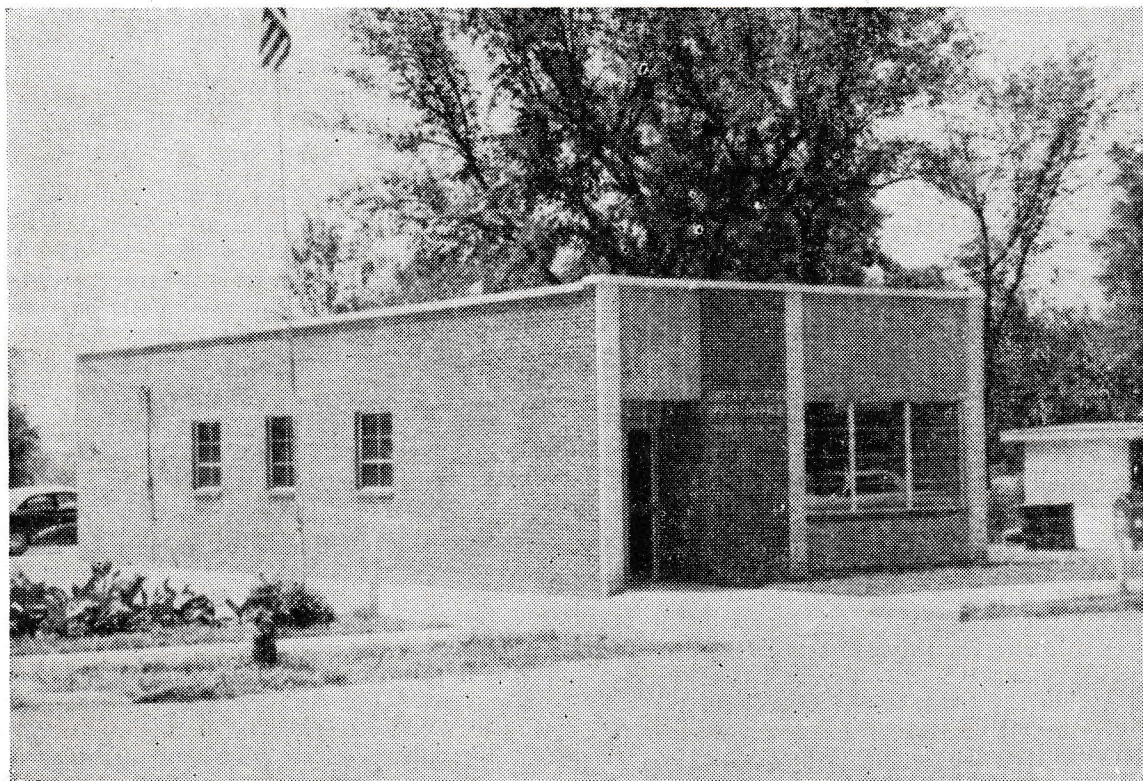
Government in planning and matters of improvement of the town. They are now engaged in a trash pick up campaign. John Hutchison is to pick up at regular intervals.

Our School District is very fortunate to have a progressive and forward looking board of education in that they have been able to keep our school at a high rating and are able to offer a well rounded program to our children. I understand this is one of the few schools in this state that still have their Alumni meeting and banquet at the end of each year.

Schell City is blessed with three churches whose doors are open to everyone for worship and service to God.

Our Lions Club, especially active, have many worthwhile projects in motion that will benefit our town. Our Masonic bodies and several women's clubs are truly a credit to this community and have a strong influence on our way of life.

Our new post office would be a credit to any city regardless of size. The postmaster and Floyd Phillips are responsible for this addition to our city.



Schell Citizens receive their mail through an up-to-date facility built in 1960 at the corner of First and Main Street.

CENTENNIAL - CONGRATULATIONS

MAXWELL'S SUPER MARKET  
AND LOCKER PLANT

NEVADA, MISSOURI

COMPLIMENTS OF

BOWMAN

ABSTRACT & TITLE

NEVADA, MISSOURI



Our new Medical Center is a classic example of what can be done when people work together toward a goal. We have had some disappointments in the past with the problem of a Doctor but I feel certain that our Medical board will be successful in their efforts to place a doctor in the center before long. Much correspondence is being done with doctors over the country.

ness building we have a new Service Station, completely modern at the south end of Main Street and a new Coin-O-Matic Laundry at the north end of Main Street. The Service Station was built by B. D. Dickbreder and the Laundry by Warren Haddix. Again I say, hats off to the builders who believe in progress. A sportsman paradise was a tempting bit of bait



Keeping up with the time is no problem if one is surrounded by 1200 clocks. The steady tick-tock of little clocks, big clocks, and medium ones in the Har die Museum reminds the visitor of the numerous collection that surrounds him. The antique-curios displayed in the museum does not end with clocks. Hardie, who is a member of the Veteran Motor Car Club of America, proudly shows a 1908 Buick, many antiquated toys, tools, musical instruments and a

dated portable gramophone.

A Museum of over 1200 clocks and watches, nickleodeons, music boxes, old graphaphones, antique cars and other antique items are to be found in the Schell City Museum. The owner of this collection thought this city worthy of this unusual collection and a growing community or he would have gone elsewhere.

The Pagoda at the north end of Main Street is another example of teamwork by a number of our citizens. It was built like the old one as nearly as possible, in the 1880's. Mr. Carl Olson, our music teacher, and the Schell City school band deserve a hand of thanks for their past summer concerts that we so enjoyed. We hope that we will have more of their music next summer.

Our hats off to the builders who have shown their faith in Schell City's future. These are the kind of people who make a town prosper and grow. If we will follow their example even if we just keep our property and streets clean we will have a beautiful city to live in. Schell City can now boast of 5 new houses. One built by K. A. Lasley; one by Lewis & Son; one by Joe McKinney and two by Mr. and Mrs. Loyd Stevens. I understand that there will be more building in the near future. In the way of busi-

ness to offer a prospective resident, especially if he were a hunter or fisherman. Coming to the area with the other improvements of the late 1950's and early 1960's was the Schell-Osage Wildlife Refuge.

The 9,000 acre refuge lies east of Schell City. The land which was often covered with backwater from the Osage was purchased by the Missouri Conservation Commission from farmers.

There are several lakes that are well stocked with fish. Picnic and camping grounds have been developed throughout the area. Every weekend throughout the summer the camping areas are filled with people enjoying a family outing or sportsmen enjoying nature's provision for him.

Ducks and geese flock to the area in the fall. Hunters rise in the wee hours of the coldest mornings, row to the blinds that are provided by the Conservation Commission and wait for the wild duck.

COMPLIMENTS OF  
HOUSE OF FABRIC  
WE ARE SEW RIGHT FOR YOU

110 W. Walnut

Nevada, Mo.



Avid sports fans have enjoyed softball since 1966 when the Schell City Amateur Sports Association was organized. Due to the untiring efforts of Mr. Joe Ford, young coach in the local high school, and Mr. Howard Sanderson, the program was launched under the sponsorship of the Lions Club. Teams were formed in the local churches and organizations as well as in neighboring communities. Players were recruited from the teenage group to the middle-aged parents for players on the teams. Competition was keen for the championship.

The program continues to expand each year. Bleachers have been added to the ball diamond, which is brilliantly lighted with banks of flood lights. A concession stand operated by the association provides refreshments to the large crowds that attend the games. Early in the evening people begin arriving. For greater comfort while watching the game and visiting with friends, adults bring their lawn chairs, mosquito repellent and enjoy the evening.

A public address system has allowed the fans to have a running account of the plays. For those who aren't familiar with the rules or get busy with visiting and lose contact with the game, this keeps them in touch. One can keep pace with the gossip and occasionally tune in on the announcer to learn who's ahead.

Vietnam loomed large on the horizon for all Schell Citians during the 1960's. Several young men from the small town were called to fight in the seemingly endless war. The community was rocked with news of the death of Dennis Ijams in 1968. Ijams had been killed in action in the divided country. Only two years later another native son fell. He was Mike Davis. Both men were only a few years out of high school, and their untimely deaths seemed so useless and difficult to accept.



Open House at the Farmers State Bank in Schell City brought many visitors to inspect the attractive new interior. Friends and depositors sent their warm congratulations through attractive floral arrangements that delicately scented the bank and gave it an elegant appearance. Bank employees Mrs. Norma Thomas, Mrs. Geraldine Prough, Mrs. Ida Colson and Mr. Ed Stonebraker were on hand to serve refreshments to the guests.

Schell City did not forget what these young fellows had done for their country. The town fathers searched for a memorial. The ball park seemed to be appropriate, since both had been sportsfans and players. They loved sports. In a dedication ceremony in 1969 the park was named, Schell City Memorial Ball Park.

A first for Schell City was the election of a lady mayor, or is it mayoress? In 1969 Mrs Rosa Lee Walter was elected to the commanding position by a one vote margin. Mrs. Walter endeavored to improve city streets and to introduce a city beautification project. Several controversial issues during the Walter's administration were the subject for lively discussions on and off the record.



Women clamored for the right to vote and got it. They have come a long way since the day when a woman's life purpose was to bear children and serve her husband. Today women work alongside men and want equality in a man's world. They have proven their leadership qualities. Women have been representatives, senators, governors and mayors. Mayor Rosa Lee Walter set a precedent for local town government when she was elected to direct city affairs from the office of mayor.

Change has marked the century that has passed. The population has decreased, and the number of businesses are fewer today. As the old-timer tours the city and reminisces, he observes, that the businesses of his youth are replaced or totally missing.

Entering Schell City from the south one notes that an up-to-date service station serves the motoring public. Mr. B. D. Dickbreder, who is dealer and distributor of Standard products in this area, owns the business operated by Mr. Ted Thomas. Mr. Thomas also functions as city marshal.

Hardie's Museum attracts visitors from all over the state. John Hardie, curator, began collecting clocks as a hobby twenty-seven years ago. Today





One does not acquire a collection of three thousand Indian artifacts overnight. No one can better attest to this than Elliott Haddix, curator of the Osage Rock Shop. Haddix made his collection from relics found within a fifty-mile radius of Schell City. Rock and mineral specimens from other states and some foreign countries are a part of the museum displays. Antique cars, one thousand year old spearpoints, and padlocks from the 1904 World's Fair, and numerous items attract the antique collector's eye.

the number has grown to nearly 2,000, one of the largest collections in the midwest. The curios vary in size and age. There is an hourglass that dates back to 1440 and a massive grandfather clock that is eight feet tall. Commemorative clocks of Christ and the woman at the well, King David, the Scotch Queen, Tom Sawyer and Huck Finn, a clock from the Jefferson Davis Home and replicas of some timepieces that were lost in the bombing of German cathedrals are a small part of the collection that in-

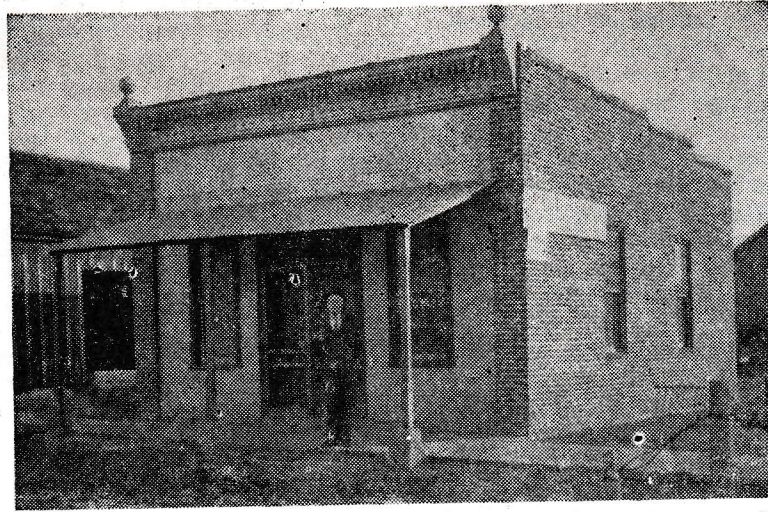
cludes several items over two hundred years old.

Across the street the visitor finds another collector of artifacts. Elliott Haddix, owner of the Osage Rock Shop, exhibits numerous rocks, fossils, Indian relics and a bottle collection. Many of the Indian arrowheads, which numbers about three thousand, were unearthed in the vicinity of the Indian villages near Halley's Bluff. All have been recorded and catalogued by the University of Missouri's archaeological department.



Dr. J. R. Colson tacked his shingle over the door of his office in 1907 where it hung the physician practiced medicine in Schell City for thirty-eight years.





The office of the Justice of Peace denotes a past era. The J.P. meted out fines, performed marriages, and tried cases involving misdemeanors. J. W. Ensley served as Justice of the Peace in Schell City from this office.

Walking north on the west side of Main Street one passes empty buildings that have housed a variety of businesses including the post office, a beauty shop, a dentist office, a grocery store and a variety store.

Lewis and Son Hardware, a business owned and operated by four generations of the Lewis family, is also located on the west side of Main Street. Mr. and Mrs. John G. Lewis, his sister, Mrs. Margaret Ann Haddix, and mother, Mrs. Marion Lewis present owners also manage an ambulance service and funeral home. This business is situated on Second Street west of downtown. Across from the Hardware establishment, the Lewises maintain their warehouses.

Farmers State Bank occupies the building next to the Lewis warehouses. The bank underwent extensive remodeling program in 1969. The ceilings were lowered, floors were carpeted, central heating and air-conditioning, and up-to-date equipment were installed. The sixty-one year old establishment serves depositors and conducts all kinds of financial business under the supervision of Mr. Ed Stonebraker, vice-president and cashier. Total resources for the banking business is \$1,704,655.64.

A small building north of the bank once housed Dr. Colson's office. Later it served as city hall and was the scene of the town's business activities. Today the structure is empty.

Next door one finds the office of the Schell City Ledger. The weekly publication is printed by Mr. and Mrs. Howard Sanderson. The paper, which was the first of its kind in the county, first bore the name The Schell City News and was changed May 1, 1947. The unique little newspaper, which has a circulation of four hundred, reaches thirty-six states, including Hawaii, and several servicemen in Vietnam and Thailand.

Natives remember that the office of the "Ledger" was once a grocery store owned by Jewell and Al Deane Ditty. At another time it was a theater.

One of Schell City's newest business is next door to the printing office. The Snak Shak, combination grocery and cafe, serves as a popular teenage hangout. Of course, the adults gather there for

coffee as well. The establishment, which was formerly Dick's Cafe and Grocery, is owned and managed by Mr. and Mrs. Dale McMillan and daughter and son-in-law.

Since the community around Schell City is primarily an agricultural one, an important concern is the Schell City Truck and Tractor, which has its central office downstairs in the Masonic Building. The farm implement enterprise is under the management of Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Phillips. Mr. Phillips who is an industrious, shrewd farmer and businessman, employs several men in his shop, office and on the farm.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Gray's business venture in Schell City includes a grocery and variety store and garage. The grocery store operated by Mrs. Gray and her sister-in-law, Mrs. Dorothy Friend, is located on the west side of Main Street. It carries a wide line of dry goods, meats and groceries. The grocery business has been owned by Darrow Brothers, Siebs and Sharps.

Mr. Gray, a mechanic, runs a garage at the corner of Main and Second Street. He does automobile repair and body and fender repair. The Grays have been part of the business community in Schell City over thirty years.

South of the Gray's store stands another vacant building. It has been a grocery store conducted by Coble and Son; later purchased by J. E. White. On the opposite side of Gray's a white building houses the City Hall. There the city council meets, the police judge metes out fines, water bills are paid and other city affairs transpire.

Long time residents recall that buildings in that area have been the site of G. Pape's Racket Store, T. C. Pitts Jewelry and Watch Shop, Starkey's Millinery and Mrs. M. A. Keen's Variety Store.

A second service station business is on the south corner of Second and Main. This business venture was begun by Mr. Eugene Colson. Today it is Harms Oil Company under the management of Albert Harms, Jr.

On East Second Street near the railroad tracks a row of business houses used to be a hat shop, a shoe repair shop, a restaurant, the printing office, and



around the corner were the Duck Hotel and the depot.

Today one finds a feed store operated by Mr. Jim Mosher. Only a few years ago this business was the Ditty Produce Company.

W. W. (Dutch) Colson still operates the O.K. Barber Shop. Mr. Colson has been in the barbering business for 55 years. Although times have changed, the styles have changed, and Schell City has changed, friends claim that Dutch continues to be the same friendly, smiling small town barber.

The Schell City Elevator situated along the MK&T railroad tracks is owned by Mr. and Mrs. Bob Davis. It was built in 1958. The scales, one of the largest is the area, will weigh loads up to fifty tons. Farmers flock to the Davis' Elevator each spring to buy their seed. Harvest time in the fall brings them back to sell their grain crops.

North of the pagoda on Main Street the old timer remembers there once was a livery stable, Hoagland's Blacksmith Shop and J. W. Ensley, Justice of the Peace's Office. All are gone. Farther north Dr. Jarvis' Office and the Brick Hotel remain as silent evidence of a perhaps more thriving by-gone day.

At the north end of Main Street an unoccupied green house owned by W. O. Haddix stands next door to the Coin-o-matic laundry. Haddix built the laundromat and later sold it to Mr. and Mrs. Alfert Kurt who continue to keep up the business. Mr. Kurt is also an automobile mechanic and repair man. He maintains a successful garage in the northwestern part of town.

Closely connected to Schell City's business community are Deloris' Beauty Shop, Anna Mae's Beauty Shop and Walt's Conoco Station and Cafe. Both beauty shops are operated in the private homes of Mrs. Deloris Gaines and Mrs. Anna Mae Hammond. The cosmetologists completed their training at Joplin in 1966 and opened their establishments later in the fall. Coiffures of the ladies in Schell City have taken on attractive up-to-date styling as a result.

Driving into Schell City from the south, one passes Walt's Conoco just outside the city limits. Mrs. Maxine Nabors recently opened the Delmax Cafe that joins a service station that operates under the supervision of Walter Smith.

Schell City has grown, suffered, and fought to survive. Although things aren't what they use to be, natives have not lost their pride in the little town nor their faith in her future.

Important to the residents are the churches and the school. These long established institutions are featured along with sketches of old families, clubs and organizations and the public utilities in the balance of this review.

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## COMPLIMENTS OF COALE MOTORS

COMPLETE AUTO BODY REBUILDING

Used Cars Bought and Sold - Salvage

TRUCK SPECIALTY

Billy G. Coale      Phone 667-7184      Nevada, Mo.

# Grays Garage

Phone 432-2745

Schell City, Missouri

"The best way out of a difficulty is through it." Bring us your mechanical troubles, we'll try to help you. Although we have been in business much longer, 1971 finds us in our thirty-eighth year of service in the same location. Our service includes all types of mechanical work, wrecker and tow-in service, general automotive and tractor repair, welding and not forgetting at times the children's toy needs.

We remain at your service by appointment or by phone, day or night emergencies.

# Grays Store

Groceries, Drugs, Notions, Dry Goods and ready-to-wear.

Fifteen years ago we undertook the operation of this business. Thanks to our loyal customers.

We would like to mention here that Grandfather Gray operated a slaughter house and meat market here in the early history of Schell City, during the boyhood of John Gray, my father.

---

# foremost

FOODS COMPANY

PHONE 667-3397

NEVADA, MO.



Scale 300 ft. to 1 inch.

CORPORATE

614475

G. E. Dunham

Emma Kinn

W A R D

ST

FOURTH

Public School

ORIGINAL TOWN

ONE STOP PLAYS

FIRST

Phoebe Barrow

Geo. Devant

W A R D

1976

Ans. A. Coach

C. J. Smith

J W Willard

O Duck



## THURSDAY

May 27, 1971

7:30 P.M.

School Auditorium

Judging of the Queens  
(Public is Welcome)  
Three Categories

Queen of the past ..... 51 - 100 years  
Queen of the present ..... 21 - 50 years  
Queen of the future ..... 13 - 20 years  
Tea ..... Coffee and Do-Nuts  
Committee ..... Norma Thomas, Betty Stonebraker  
Frances Sanderson, Shirley Flake

## FRIDAY

May 28, 1971

11:00 A.M. - 12:00 Noon ..... Rolling Hoop Contest  
E. Ray Eddy, Chairman  
12:00 - 1:00 P.M. .... Lunch on the grounds  
1:00 - 5:00 P.M. .... Horse Shoe Pitching Tournament  
Roy Vogt, Chairman  
1:00 - 2:00 P.M. .... Ladies Pancake Race  
Belvoir Club  
2:00 - 3:00 P.M. .... Pageant  
Modern Mothers Club  
3:00 - 3:15 P.M. .... Spit and Whittle Contest  
Buck Hutchison, Chairman  
3:15 - 3:30 P.M. .... Women's Sewing Bee  
Fern Graham, Chairman  
3:30 - 4:00 P.M. .... Entertainment  
..... Modern Priscilla Club  
4:00 - 4:30 P.M. .... Terrapin Race  
Jack Oehring, Chairman  
4:30 - 5:00 P.M. .... Costume Contest (Men)  
Most Authentic (late 1880's)  
Most Authentic (early 1900's)  
Best Western Dress (any period)  
Jim Berry, Chairman  
5:00 - 5:30 P.M. .... Judging of Beards  
Baldwin Dade, Chairman  
5:30 - 6:30 P.M. .... Dinner on grounds  
6:30 - 7:00 P.M. .... Baby Contest  
Frances Lewis, Chairman  
7:00 - 7:30 P.M. .... Old Fiddlers Contest  
Emmet Applegate, Chairman  
7:30 - 8:00 P.M. .... Presentation of the Queens  
8:00 - 11:00 P.M. .... Tractor Pulling Contest  
(school grounds) Harwood Ruatan  
8:00 - ..... Larry Hill and other local entertainment  
(Main Street)

## SATURDAY

May 29, 1971

11:00 A.M. - 12:00 Noon ..... Grange  
11:00 A.M. .... Judging of floats at school yard  
12:00 - 1:00 P.M. .... Lunch on grounds  
1:00 - 1:30 ..... Larry Hill's Music (and surprise)  
1:30 - 3:30 P.M. .... Parade  
3:30 - 4:00 ..... Merchandise Give-Away (free)  
Tom Newby, Chairman  
4:00 - 4:30 P.M. .... Entertainment  
4:30 - 5:00 P.M. .... Entertainment  
5:00 - 5:30 ..... Musical Entertainment  
5:30 - 6:30 ..... Dinner on grounds  
6:30 - 7:00 P.M. .... Midnight Suns (Music)  
Bruce Barton and Band  
7:00 - 8:00 P.M. ....  
..... Introduction of Distinguished Guests  
8:00 - 8:30 P.M. .... Guest Speaker  
8:30 - 9:00 P.M. .... Community Sing  
Don Kennedy, George Flint  
9:00 - 12:00 Midnight ..... Street Shuffle  
Everett Prough, Bob Flake

## CENTENNIAL COMMITTEE

Chairmen

Howard Sanderson ..... Chairman  
Ed Stonebraker ..... Co-Chairman and Treasurer  
Harold Mosher ..... Secretary  
B. D. Dickbreder ..... Program Chairman  
George Flint ..... Co-Chairman  
Walter Smith ..... Parade Chairman  
Dean Corbin ..... Co-Chairman  
Dean Corbin ..... Advertising Chairman  
Ted Thomas ..... Public Address and Lighting Chm.  
John Lewis ..... Chairman of Concessions  
Larry Sanderson, Tom Newby, Frank Gaines .....  
..... Queen Contest Committee



## CITY OFFICIALS

Mayor and Board of Aldermen  
Les Bowman, South Ward; Harvey Smith, South  
Ward; Howard Sanderson, North Ward; George  
Hardie, North Ward; and Mayor Warren Haddix.

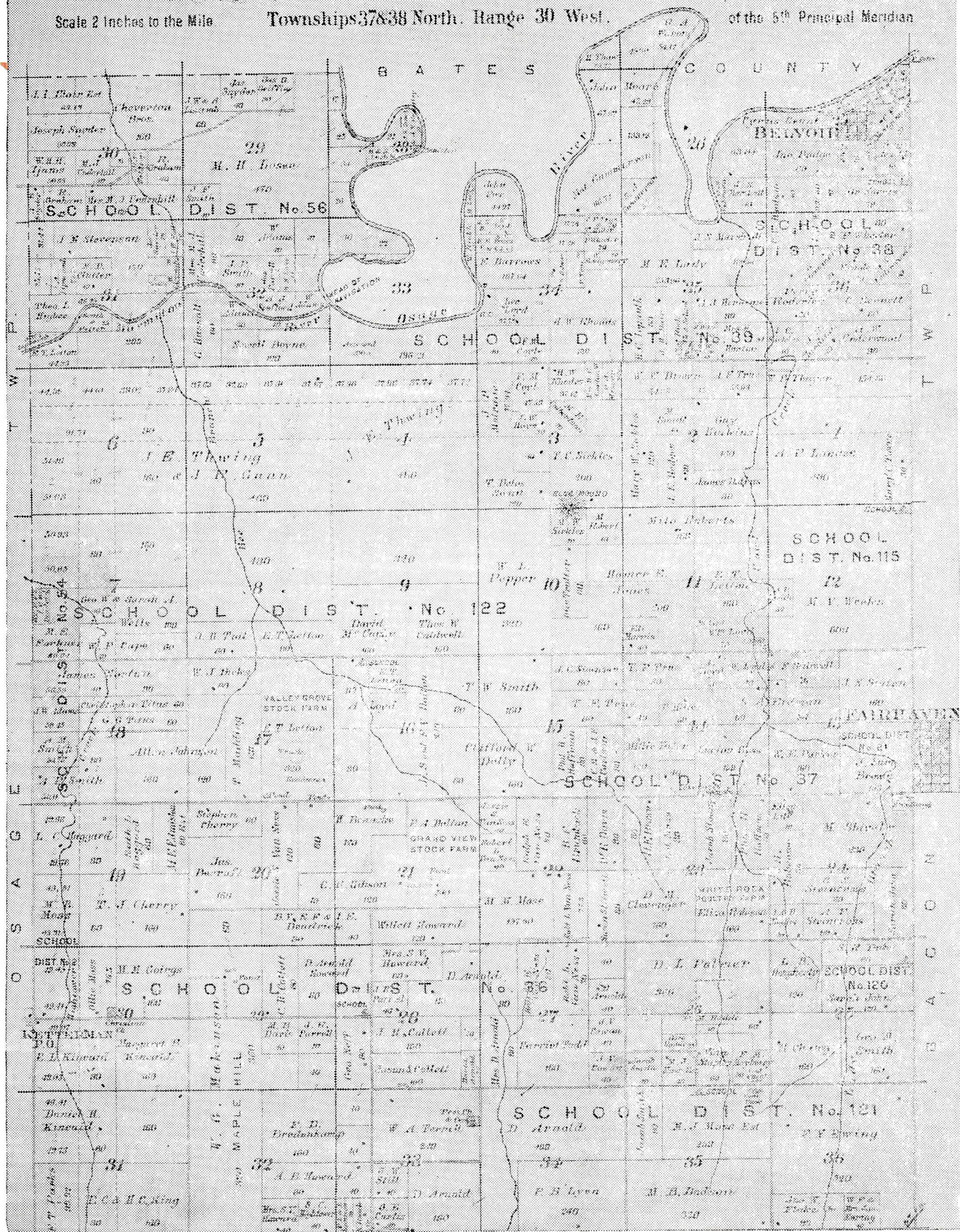


Gladys H. Bowman, City Collector; B. D. Dickbred-  
er, Police Judge; Ted Thomas, City Marshal; Harold  
Mosher, City Clerk; not pictured. Water Commis-  
sioner, Ray Litton.





of the 5<sup>th</sup> Principal Meridian







A two-story brick school building was erected in 1881 using the gift that Mr. Augustus Schell had given the town upon its founding. For several years this building housed a four year high school program, as well as the elementary. A auditorium on the second floor seated two hundred students.

## SCHOOLS

Public education was foremost in the minds of the United States earliest pioneers. That institution's perpetuance has held high priority for the establishment of state and local governments. Therefore, it was not unprecedented when Mr. Augustus Schell made provisions for a school when he founded the town.

A group of select citizens were chosen as trustees of a \$1000 gift to be used for the building of a school. The committee was made up of a group of shrewd businessmen who invested the money allowing the interest to accrue for ten years.

In the meantime the first school was held in a small frame house that had been built for a dwelling on Fourth Street between Main and Maple. As the town grew, the little building was soon overflowing. In 1874 a school was opened in a new building that had been erected. The population continued to grow and of course the school enrollment climb-

ed upward. Additional teachers had to be added.

By 1880 the need for larger and improved facilities was becoming apparent. The original gift of \$1000 had grown to \$1470. The six year old building was sold to the Presbyterians for \$1200. To meet the balance of the cost, a \$10,000 was voted. A two-story brick structure was built at the site of the present school. Citizens of the "Queen of the Osage Valley" were proud of the magnificent edifice that was erected. The school had a capacity for six hundred students. Although the number seems almost incredible, the enrollment in 1889 is reported to have been five hundred.

The school's curriculum was expanded to a two year high school upon the completion of the new building. The first class graduated from the high school in 1886. A year later they organized an alumni association that has continued through the years. Today the association is one of the oldest in the state. It meets annually in May for a banquet, bringing together many of the several hundred graduates.

COMPLIMENTS OF  
DR. J. P. WOODFILL

OPTOMETRIST

Office hours 8:30 - 5:00 - Thursday 8:30 - 12:00

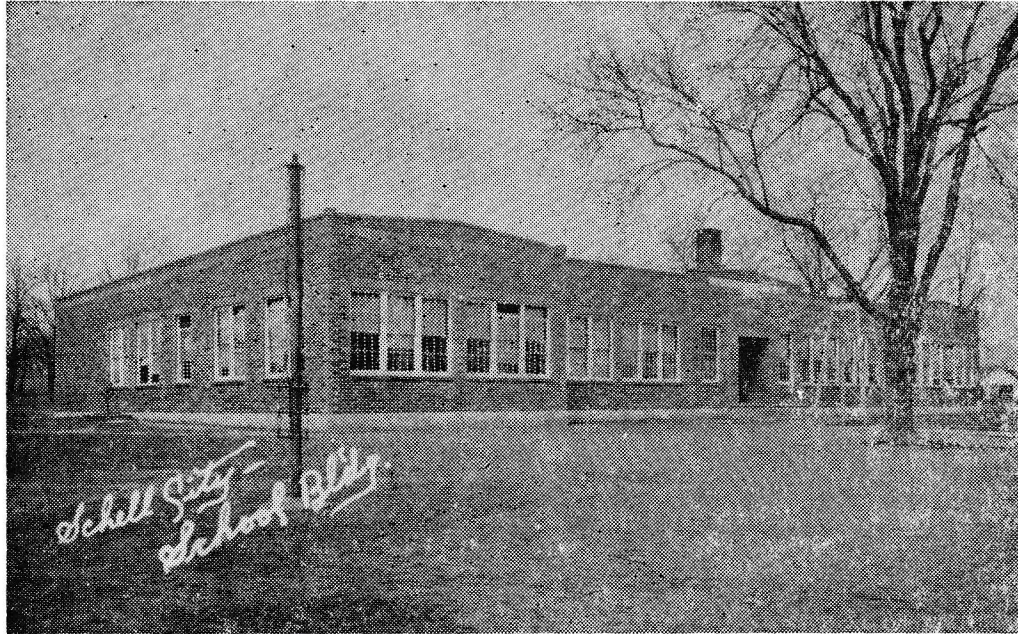
104 N. Cedar ph. 667-5464 Nevada, Missouri

COMPLIMENTS OF  
PRODUCERS GRAIN CO.

MFA FEEDS AND FERTILIZERS

Nevada Mo. 667-2726 - ElDorado Spgs. Mo 876-2422





The present school plant was built in 1929. At that time a gymnasium was added that took the basketball games inside, out of the cold and wet weather.

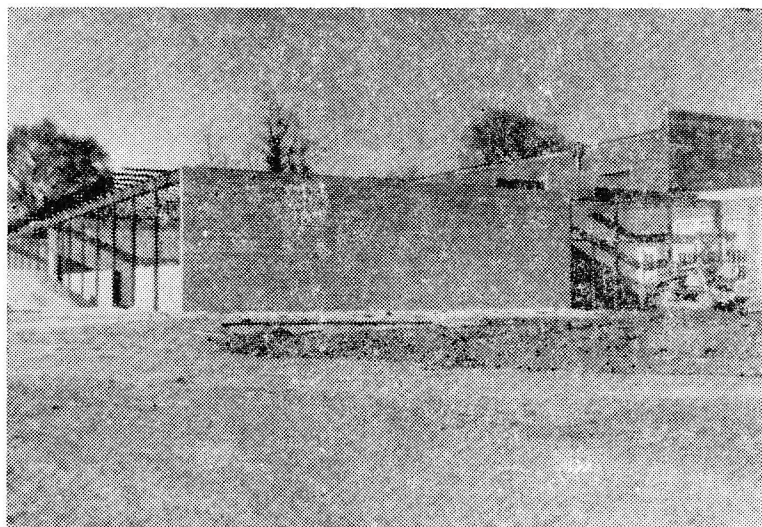
At the turn of the century a three year high school program was initiated. The educational system was one of the most progressive in the state, and it was rated superior.

When the nine month term of school began in 1911, the high school's rating changed to second class. The next year a four year program was instituted, and it was one of the two year schools in Vernon County that was accredited in 1913.

Extra-curricular activities, such as basketball and music, are so commonplace that students and teachers practically take them for granted. School programs would almost appear to be built around their basketball program, although education is the

primary aim of a system. A basketball program was launched at the high school in the 1920's along with the music program. The first basketball players had no gymnasium. However, the boys loved the sport as much as they do today. Until the new school was built in 1929, the game was played on outdoor courts. Players recall that, while wearing their basketball uniforms, they got a bit cool playing in the snow.

The building of 1929 had eight class rooms and a spacious auditorium and gymnasium. The facilities were totally modern. Since that time the school has produced several outstanding basketball teams, debate teams and students have won awards in speech,



An addition on the west side of the building permitted the student body to enjoy a spacious dining area for noon meals. The remainder of the new addition was used for a shop area that provided students with practical arts training.



music, dramatics and debate.

A relic from the school's past history has been carefully maintained on the campus. The bell from the 1881 building was encased in a memorial tower in 1954 through the efforts of former studnets. The bell memorial was dedicated to the "school children of the past, present, and future" at the alumni meeting that year.

The school's needs have continued to grow. Additional courses and facilities had to be added to keep pace with the times. All this required more space. An addition was made to the school plant in 1963. Extra bleacher space for the gym was pro-

vided. A cafeteria and a shop that would allow the students to have training in industrial arts were added.

Today's enrollment is small, the cirriculum is adequate, and the atmosphere is conducive to learning. The pupil-teacher ratio allows a very personal relationship to exist . . . a relationship that permits the teacher to meet the individual needs of each student. The school is unique in our present society. To experience an association with the student body and the school system is to have gained fulfillment of one's need to know and teach youth.

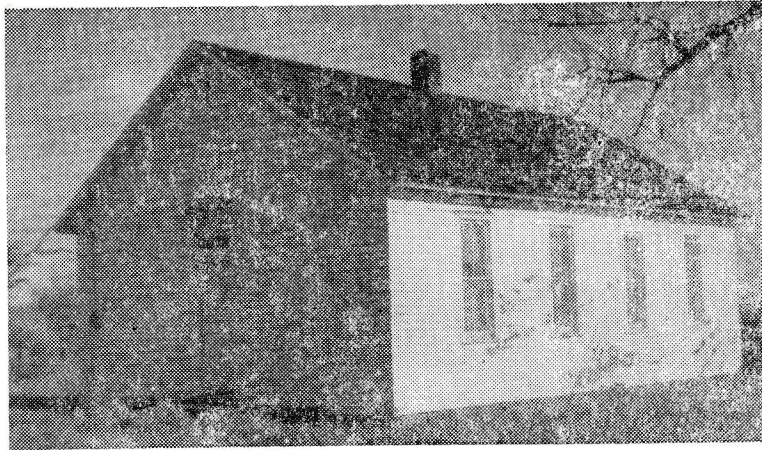


How is your tolerance of loud talking and singing of spirited youth, driving on muddy and icy roads, braving all kinds of weather and moods of human nature? Mr. Roy Vogt deserves much admiration and respect for a remarkable twenty years of driving a a school bus for the R-1 schools and experiencing the daily trials that only a bus driver knows.

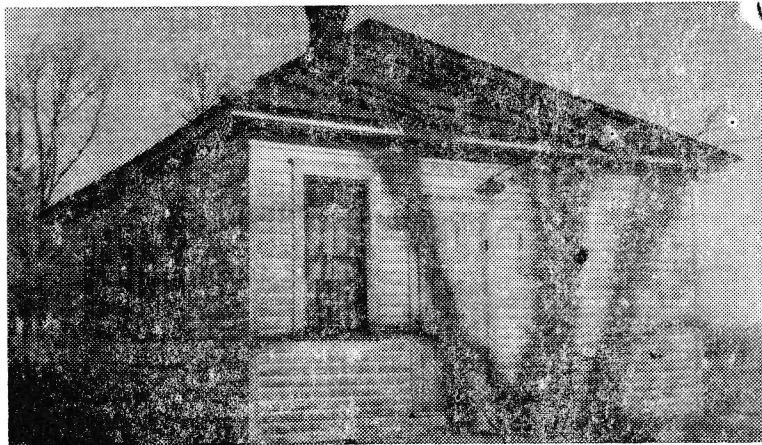


Frances Carter Stevens taught the last year of sch ool at Robinson School in 1940-41. Robinson is located in the south portion of Bacon Township.

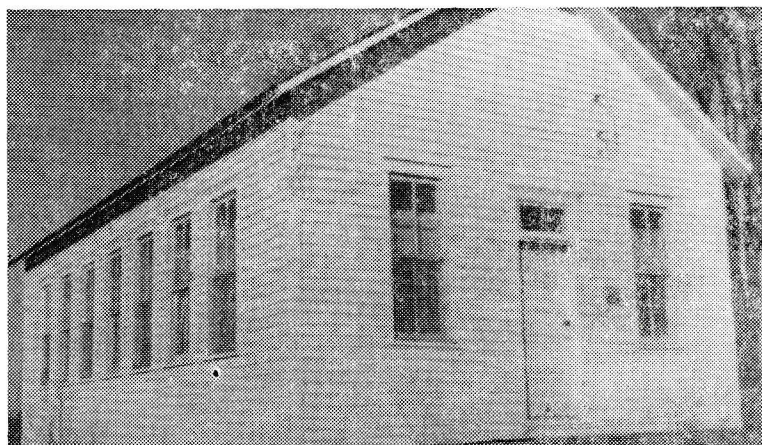




Six miles southeast of Schell City stands another vacant school building. However, it is still used for community activities. In addition to the activities of learning, the building has been used as a place for worship. Faye Hillsman taught the last term of school at Roberts School in 1948-49.

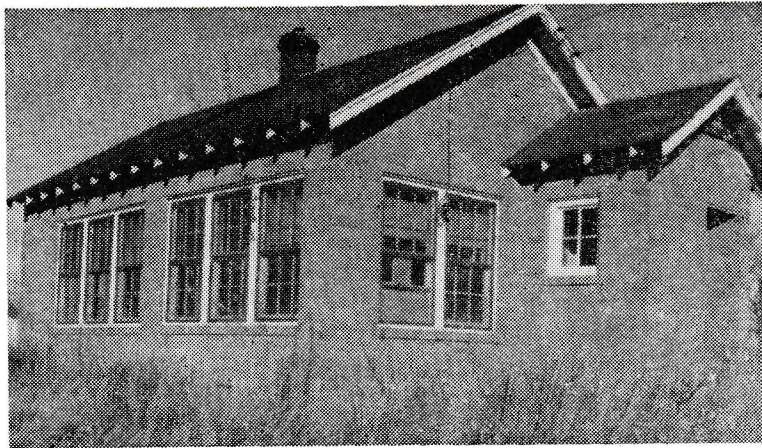


Katherine Hutchison was the last teacher at Flat Rock School when it closed its doors in 1955-56. Students became a part of the Schell City R-1 Schools.

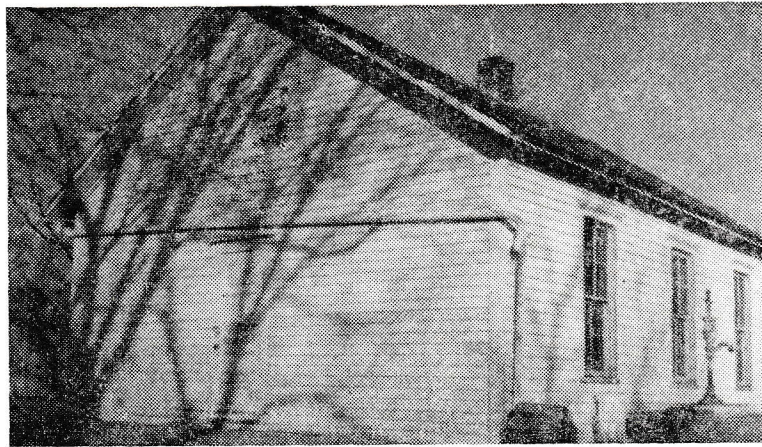


Lefler School District was one of the last to be organized in Vernon County. The school, which lies directly across the road from the old Levi Lefler farm just south of Schell City, closed its doors in 1949 with Nellie Wallace as teacher. The building is today a community building owned by the "Lefler Club" an extension club organized in 1935.

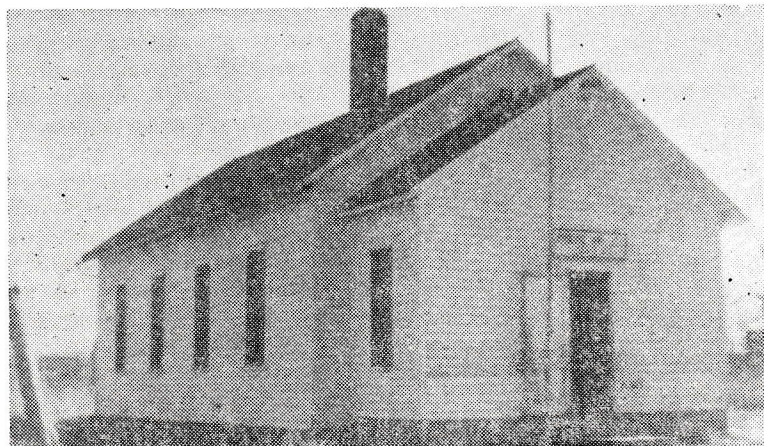




Towne School is in the Fair Haven vicinity. Classes continued there until the election of July 17, 1956 that consolidated the R-1 District. That last term was taught by Violet Overton.

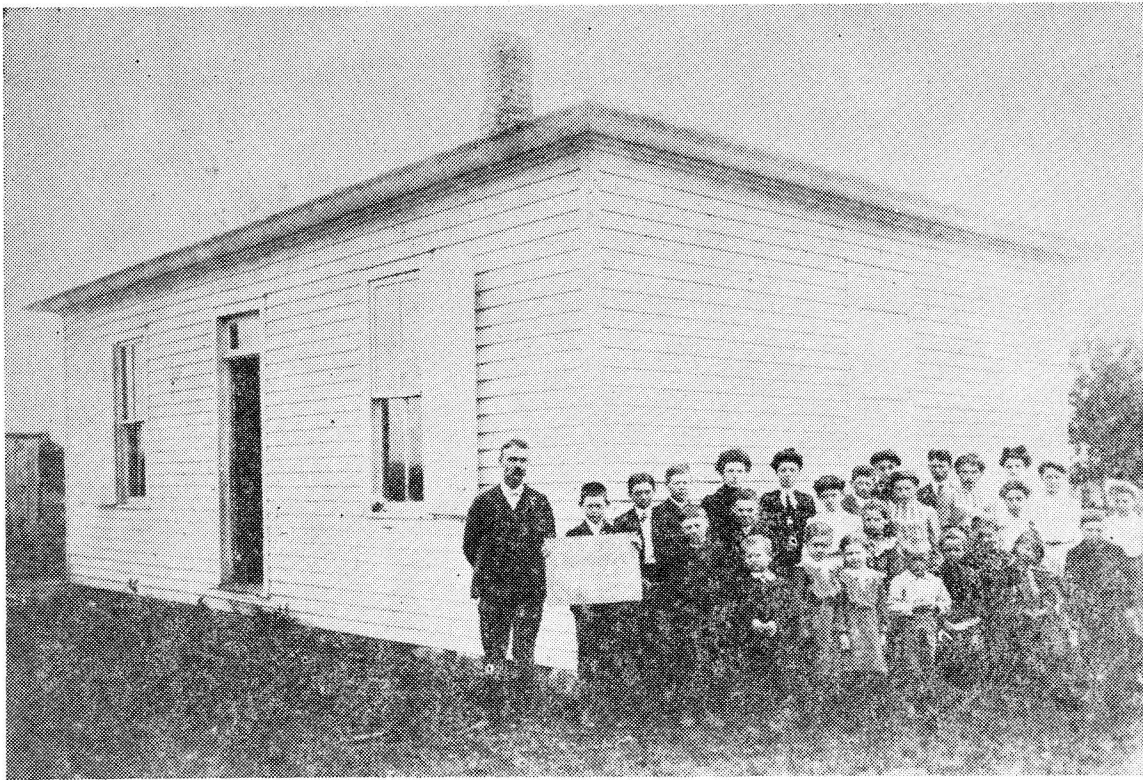


The present building that last served the children of the Coal Creek School District is owned by the Coal Creek Helping Hand Club. Its usefulness today extends to being the voting precinct for the Blue Mound Township. It was last used for a school session in 1940-41 with Yvonne Culbertson the teacher.



Prairie Valley School stands desolately at the edge of the Schell-Osage Wildlife Refuge. The land of which it was built was given by Mr. James A. Mitchem, grandfather of Mrs. Eleanor Moyer. It's students joined those in Schell City in 1955 after Mrs. Cecil Updike taught the last term.





Like many other schools, Blue Mound suffered because of a lack of students. It was finally forced to close its doors in 1937 when there were only two students enrolled. Mabel Goodman Updike was the last teacher.

The school's board of education has always maintained a high degree of concern for the students and have sought for quality education for them. The present policy making body is made up of local farmers and businessmen. They are: Lee Majors, president; B. D. Dickbreder, treasurer; Dean Corbin, Victor Thomas, Franklin Smith and Chester

Flint.

The Schell City School district is today a reorganized district. Students from eight one-room school districts attend school in Schell City. The small schools have closed their doors. Some of the buildings are wasting away, while a few have been taken over as club houses or community centers. .



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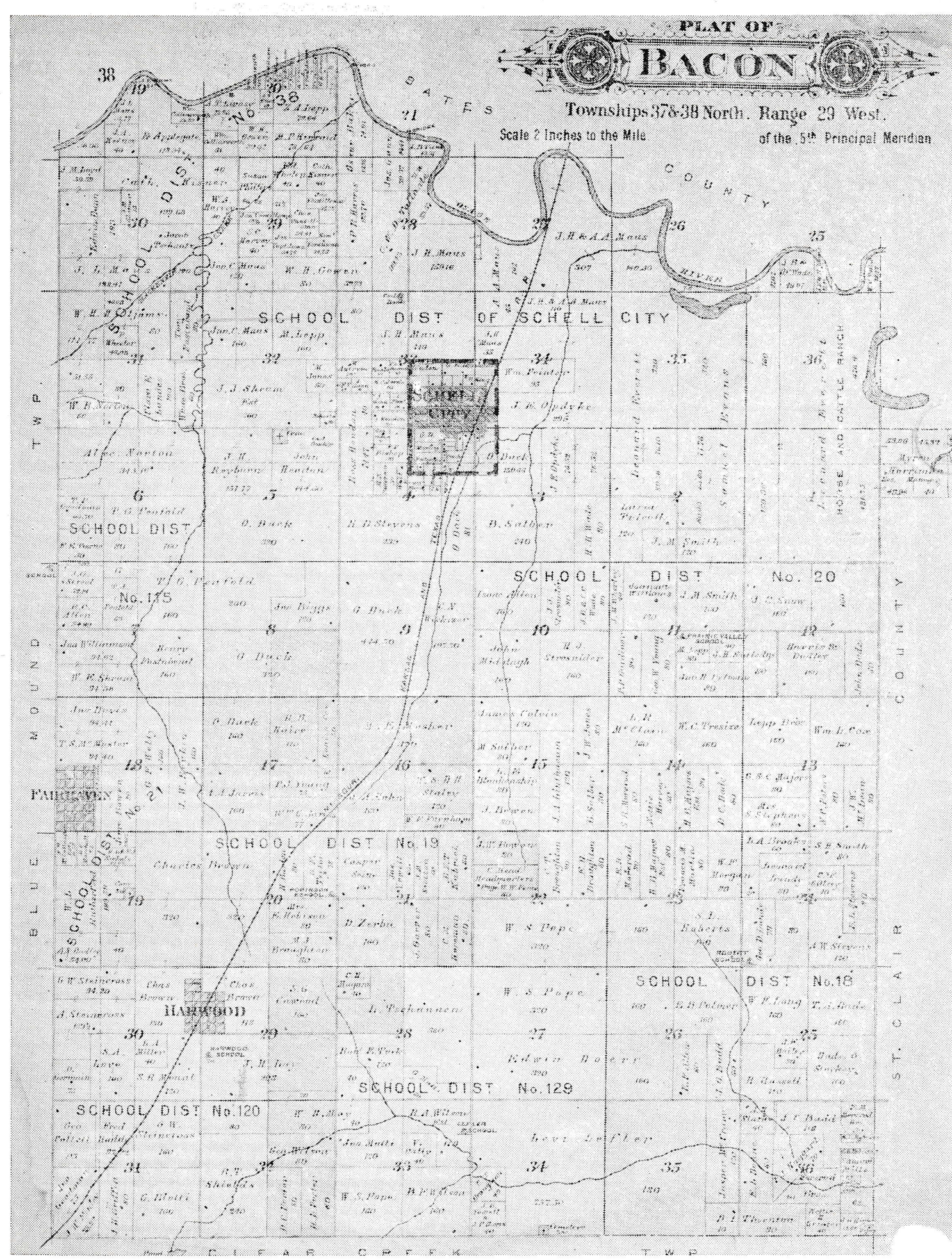
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PLAT OF  
**BACON**

Townships 37 & 38 North, Range 29 West.  
of the 5th Principal Meridian

Scale 2 Inches to the Mile







Was the proximity of the Schell City churches planned? They are concentrated in the area of Second and Maple Streets. The Methodists were the first to begin erecting a building. That structure, begun in 1878, stands today.

## CHURCHES

### Methodist Church

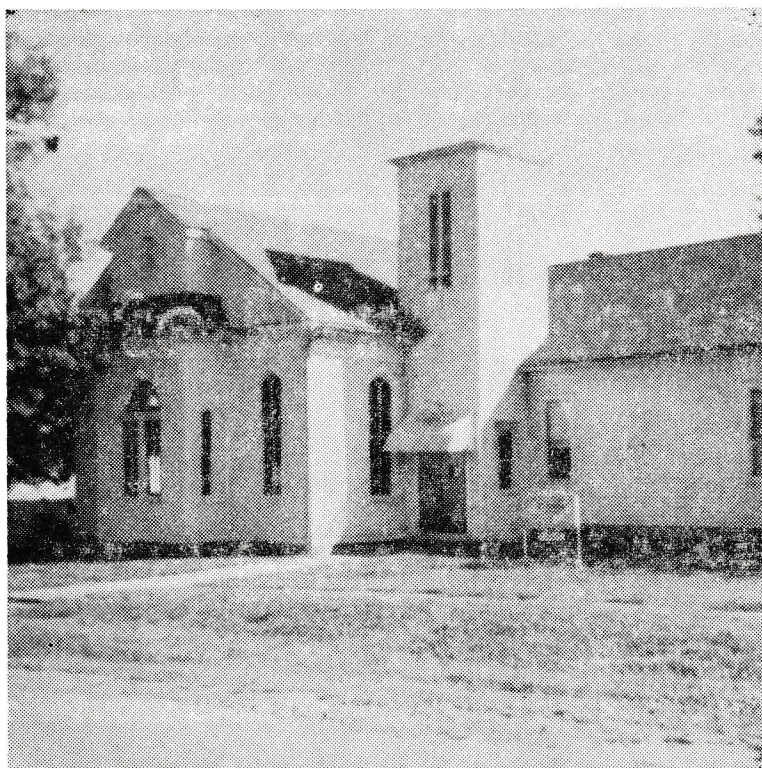
The MK&T railroad depot was the scene of the organization of the Methodist Church led by Reverend Moffitt on January 2, 1872. A group of people who called themselves Methodist Episcopal held their worship service at the depot for a year before moving to the Robinson School, which was south of town. By 1878 a reorganization had occurred and a building was begun in Schell City.

The church annex was erected in 1921. It has provided ample room for church dinners, parties, and wedding receptions. The latest of several improve-

ments to the church building was the installation of a carpet from the front door down the center aisle of the main auditorium.

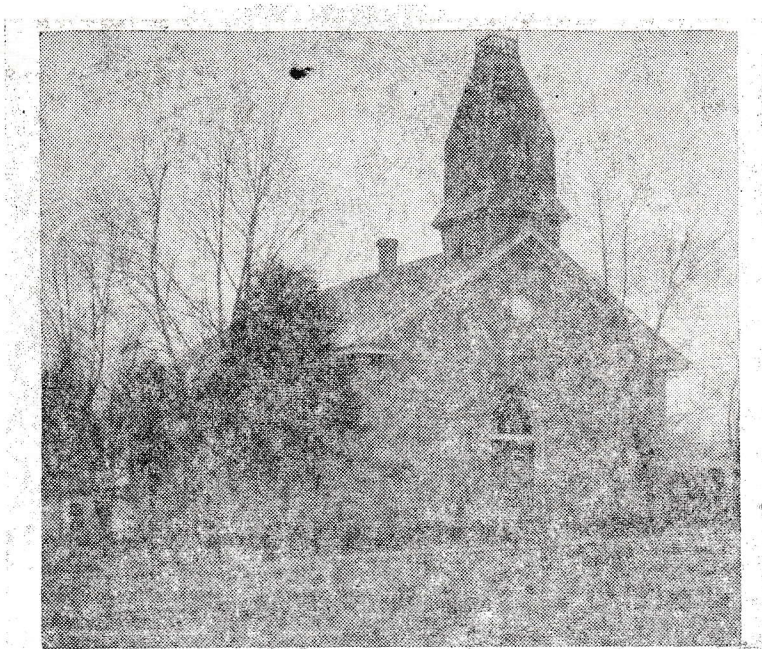
On May 10, 1939, the Methodist Episcopal South united with the Methodist Protestant Church to form The Methodist Church. Then in 1968 the church became affiliated with the United Brethren. The denomination is known today as the United Methodist Church.

The Reverend Curtis Ground is pastor of the church today. Church officers include F. L. Stevens, Chairman of the Administrative Board; George Hardie, vice chairman. Other trustees are John G. Lewis and W. W. Colson. Mrs. Fern Graham has served as organist for over forty years. John L. Hardie is Lay Leader and Church Superintendent.



The United Methodist Church with the addition of annex and some remodeling.





In 1881 the Baptist completed their edifice just across the street west from the Methodist.

## BAPTIST CHURCH

Seven months after the organization of the Methodist Church in 1872 the Reverend T. B. Freeman and Reverend Harris officiated at the organizational meeting of the Baptists. That first meeting and those that followed once a month until winter were held in an old mill in the southeastern area of town. Cold weather forced the congregation to move to a vacant store room on Main Street.

The little flock moved several times before the completion of their sanctuary in 1881. The building was made of stone and stood at the site of the present church.

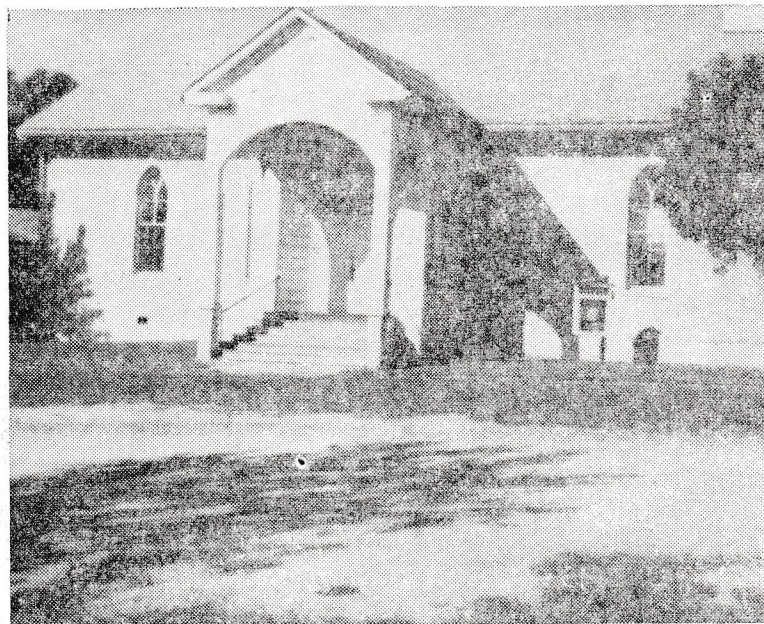
In 1922 the Structure underwent remodeling and rearranging. The Sunday School rooms and a furnace were added at that time.

The church provided for their pastor by purchasing a parsonage in 1954. The home, which is in the

southeast part of town, was remodeled and modernized at the time of its purchase.

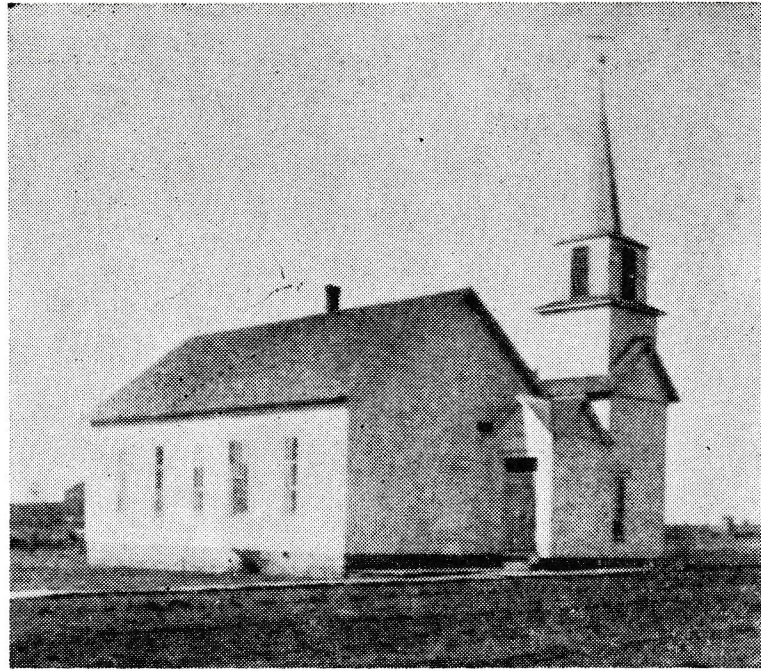
Increased membership required additional room. Reverend George Clark advised the congregation to build an additional building. It was to be used for Sunday School classrooms, social gatherings, and facilities for a kitchen, rest rooms and a nursery would be available. Work began on the structure in 1959 with Reverend Clark leading the members in donating time to work. The congregation was grateful to the pastor for his enthusiasm, encouragement and willing spirit in working toward the education building.

Pastor of the First Baptist Church is Reverend Robert Burkey. Dale Overton, Dennis McKinney, B. D. Dickbreder, Elmo Gerster, George Flint, H. L. Hickman and Carter Stillwagon provide spiritual support and leadership as the Board of Deacons.



Although the original building remains the Baptist congregation has done much remodeling and made several improvements, giving their Church a different appearance.





The first Christian Church built in 1884 was in the vicinity of the present school. After fire destroyed it in 1912, the new building was relocated to be near the other three sanctuaries.

#### CHRISTIAN CHURCH

The Christian Church membership celebrated their golden anniversary of their church's existence in August 1964. Early leaders of the faith had organized in 1883. It was not until 1884 that a building was erected on the southwest corner across from the school.

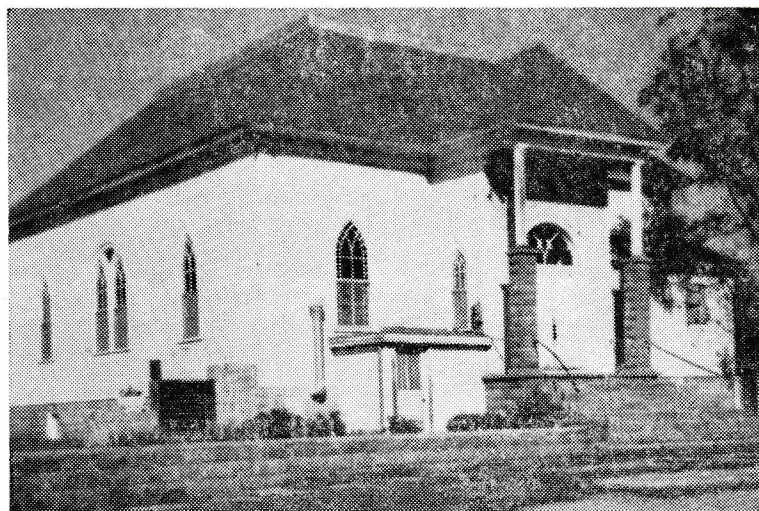
The church seemed doomed from the beginning. It was first wrecked by a tornado that lifted it from its foundation. Then in 1912, the gas lighting system caused a fire that burned the house of God to the ground. Accounts indicate that the fire came at a most inopportune time for the people. At that time money was very scarce and the prospect of rebuilding was overwhelming. Not unlike people of other religious beliefs, the Christians felt they could do anything, through Christ. Therefore, they undertook a rebuilding effort in the vicinity of the other churches.

Carpentry work and finishing was donated by enthusiastic members of the congregation. The

major part of the construction work was done by W. E. Haddix. Those early church goers learned how important it was to work together and have faith. The church has been the scene of many happy occasions such as beautiful weddings, musical programs, graduation exercises, local talent plays and renowned solists. Of course, regular worship services are held at the church today.

The church added a mobile home on the grounds to be used as a parsonage. In addition many improvements have been made to the sanctuary, including hardwood floors, aisle carpeting, paneling and a gas furnace.

Shepherding the membership of the Schell City Christian Church is Brother Mike Sheffield. Supporting the minister, members of the church board are: Elders, Chas. P. Gray, L. E. Starkey, C. W. Medearis, Leander Steele, Lee Meyer, Wilbert Schmidt; and Deacons, Cecil Updike, Franklin Smith, Bill Bailey, Jim Beaman, Thomas Goodman, Frank Gaines, and Edwin Mosher.



The Christian Church, newest of the three churches, is on Maple Street just north of the other two.





Strangely enough the original school building stood just across Second Street from the Baptist Church. That building was purchased by the Presbyterians and used as their place of worship for many years.

### PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

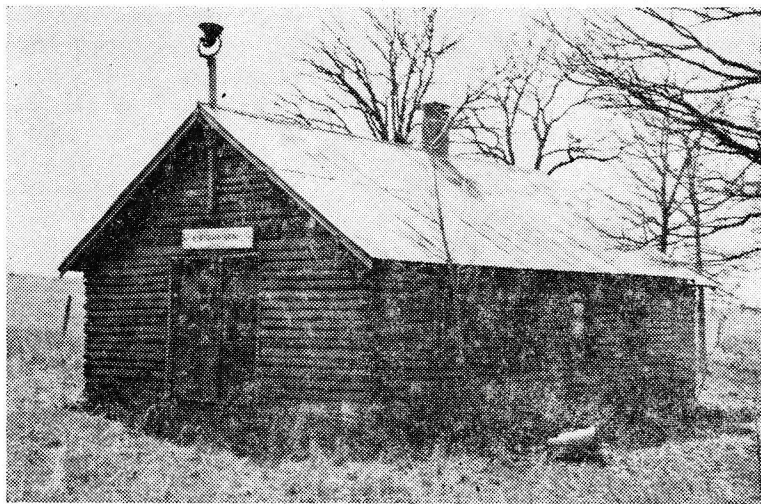
Although the Presbyterian denomination no longer exists in Schell City, it was once an important pillar of the spiritual community. The first Presbyterian Church was organized in 1875. Another group, the Cumberland Presbyterians, came a year later. As both groups declined in membership, they merged and bought the school building and converted it to a place of worship.

Worship services, funerals and weddings were held in the Church until 1954. The membership had

dwindled. The congregation was small; therefore, services were terminated.

The building had not completely served its total usefulness. Mrs Anna Bell Lewis purchased the building in 1955 as a memorial to her husband, Marion; son, Lute; and daughter Mae Frances, who had been killed in an automobile accident in 1954. It was to be used as a recreational center and meeting hall.

Finally in 1960 the old building was razed so that a modern medical clinic could be erected.



The Halley's Bluff Christian Union Church was organized in 1929. Regular services were held there until 1946 when they were discontinued because many families moved away and the congregation diminished.

### CATHOLIC CHURCH

St. Mary's Mission was closed in 1936 after serving the people of Schell City since 1892. The first Mass brought families together from Rockville and El Dorado Springs. The little mission church was served from Nevada by Father Benedict Burnet who

made the journey by train twice a month during the summer and once during the winter. The Sunday gatherings were all day affairs. Mass was celebrated in the morning and a basket dinner usually followed.

After its closing, the mission was never reopened, and the building was razed in 1950.



## BLUE MOUND BAPTIST CHURCH

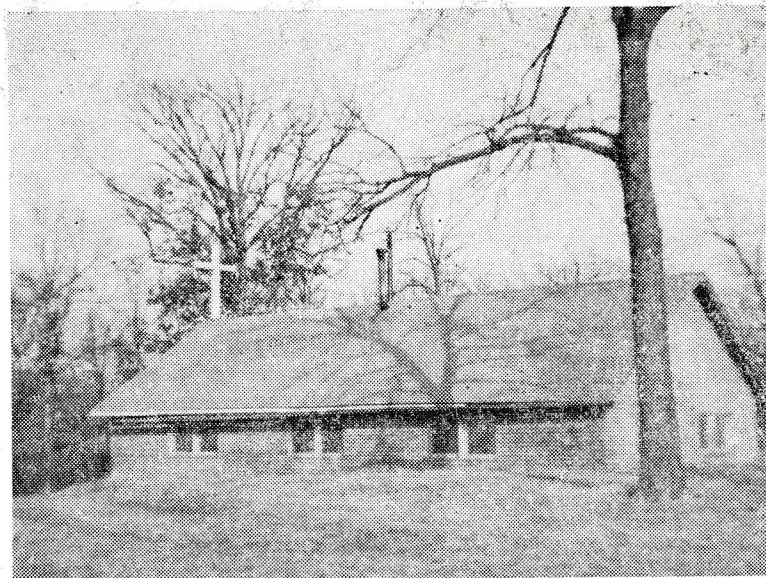
A little Baptist Church was organized by Elder G. M. Lamkin and Rev. G. M. Norman in 1872 just southwest of Belvoir. It was named Blue Mound, since it was in the area of the famous mound. The first services were held in the Flat Rock School.

The church grew to be the largest in the Vernon County Association in 1882. Its men and women were God's people. They were willing to sacrifice so they could build a church. Free will offerings and a tax based on the valuation of the property of

each male member provided the funds for an acreage and the building. They built the edifice and dedicated it to the service of the Lord in 1880.

A tornado swept through the countryside leaving behind it a path of destruction. It left in its wake a wrecked church building, a building that had to be torn down.

They continue to hold services there. Brother Earl Austin serves as pastor of the little country church.



The Church of Christ stands on a small acreage of land west of Schell City known as Zion's Retreat.

## CHURCH OF CHRIST (written by Mary Smith-

"Zion's Retreat," the name given to the tract of land owned by the Church of Christ is located seven miles west of Schell City, in a bend of the little Osage River, and includes Halley's Bluff. The property was purchased in 1939 by a small group of believers in the doctrine of the Church of Christ, who did so by what they considered Divine direction. The purpose of the purchase was for the gathering together of all of like faith, where they could have fellowship, worship together and dedicate their lives to the work of the Lord. The pioneers of the group, numbering about seven families, would not have survived the hardships and sacrifices they had to undergo had they not been so whole-heartedly dedicated to the work of the Lord.

The only building on the Church land in the beginning was a large 8-room farm house, 'on the hill' and all the first families there shared living quarters in it, one family to a room, and five or six families

at a time. Within the first few years several small individual homes were built, thus making room for more newcomers . . . .

Regular church services were held in the homes of the members until a chapel was built in 1946. A new and larger chapel was built in 1963. In 1964 a large dining hall was built and dedicated to Jess Cruse, one of the early pioneers, who passed away in 1961. In the past few years, the building program has included a large classroom, modern restrooms, two moderately large dormitories, and the original chapel has been converted into a dormitory. For several years, conferences and youth camps have been held, and all who attend are housed there on the hill within close range. The dining hall is modern and spacious, and includes a large fireplace, kitchen and work-rooms, and seating capacity for one hundred persons at one time. The Church has its own graveyard which is link-fenced, and is the final resting place of many members of the Church.

CENTENNIAL - CONGRATULATIONS

WADE MUSIC CO.

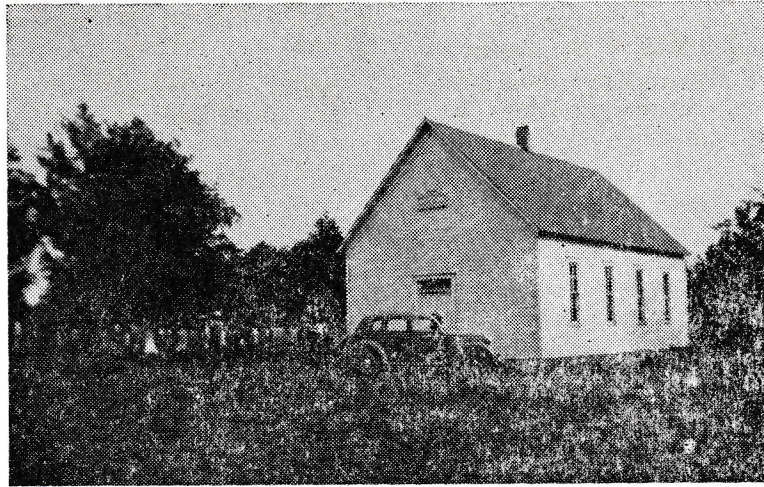
104 East Cherry Phone 667-2847 Nevada, Mo.

CENTENNIAL - CONGRATULATIONS

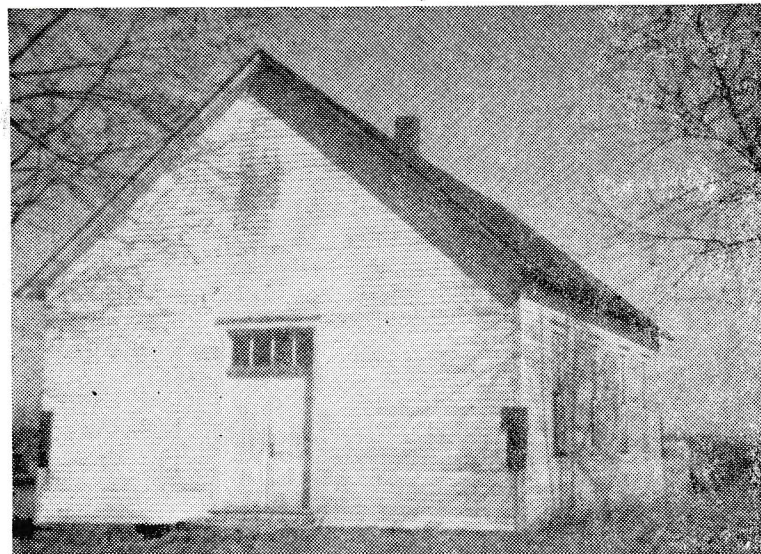
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Pleasant Grove Baptist Church had its beginning in 1876 when men in the community erected a brush arbor for worship. The charter membership totaled six. However, only four days later there were forty-four members. Meetings were held in the brush arbor until cold weather discouraged it, and the worship services were moved to homes of members. After three years a building was erected on land donated by James Brackenridge. The Church was named in 1871 when the building was completed. In the summer of 1895 the present building was erected and the old building sold and moved away. The pastor is Brother Bobby Budd who preaches twice monthly.



The Fair Haven Church

## FAIR HAVEN CHURCH

The Fair Haven Presbyterian Church had its beginning in the fall of 1897 when Rev. J. A. Poteet, a minister of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church of the Lexington Presbytery held a revival at a tabernacle in the park at Fair Haven. At the close of the meeting a Cumberland Presbyterian Church was organized with twenty charter members.

The first deacons were: J. F. Marshall, Sr., J. B. Smith, William Mann and John Reynolds, while J. J. Moss, W. E. Griggs, H. E. Brown, Otha Preston, J. M. Wherley, and J. A. Runyan served as elders.

In 1899 the membership made plans for the building of their sanctuary. They purchased land from J. Sam Brown and Earl Millslagle. Funds were solicited and received through the Presbytery for the construction of the Church, which was dedicated in 1900.

Church records indicate that the organization was rather short-lived. It disbanded in 1906.

The building continued in use by various denominations. There were revivals and Bible school sessions held in the sanctuary for many years.



## SCHELL CITY SOCIAL LIFE

It isn't new for each individual to do his own thing. Schell Citians have always done their own thing. If they wanted something, they worked for it. When they wanted entertainment, they provided their own.

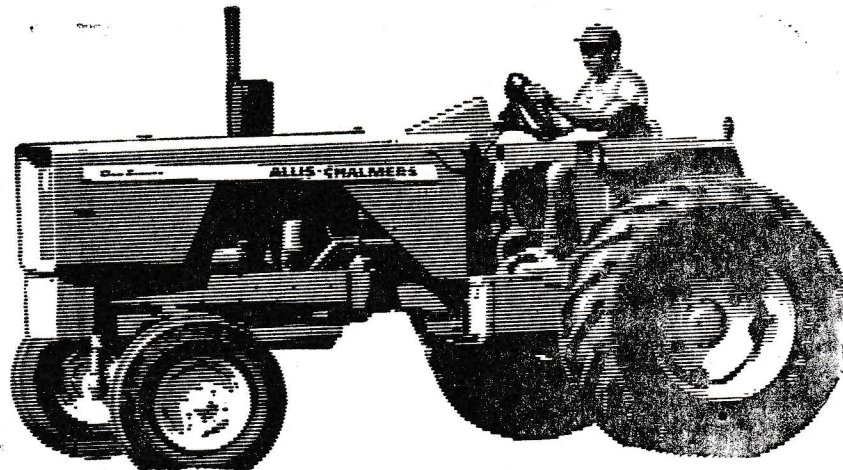
In 1880 and 1890 the most popular forms of entertainment were picnics in Duck Park, band concerts on Saturday night and dancing. Newspaper reports assert that large balls were held at the Duck Hotel. One such occasion was alleged to have been sponsored by the Queen City Dancing Club of Schell City. Another dance was sponsored monthly by the Hook and Ladder Company.

A local opera house was the scene of performances of the Schell City Dramatic Club. There were one act plays, as well as longer productions. Silent movies and later the talking motion pictures re-

placed the plays in the opera house. The churches were also used for some of the dramatic productions.

As the years passed the school became an integral part of the community's social activities. There were basketball games, class plays, pie suppers, variety shows, P.T.A. and the annual alumni. The school's programs claim a large part of each patron's time because he is devoted to the student's welfare and happiness.

The annual homecoming held at the school that originated in 1955 was introduced by Johnnie Hardie, who had attended the Vernon County Centennial that year during his vacation. Hardie conceived the idea of organizing a parade in Schell City using the floats that had not been dismantled from the centennial parade. The procession was to be followed by a community dinner. From that the homecoming affair developed and has continued on the last Sunday in May.



CENTENNIAL - CONGRATULATIONS

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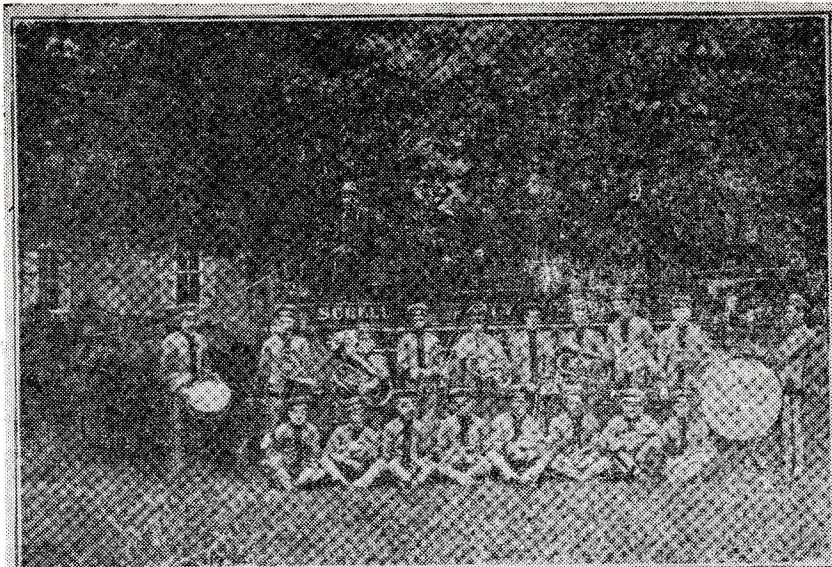
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The Schell City Band, Schell City, Mo.

Schell Citians enjoyed their band and contributed to its improvement. Members looked very smart in their uniforms. The band company also owned its own wagon and instruments. The band is composed of the following members: J. E. White, Leader and Coronet; J. E. Hirni, Coronet; J. W. Dade, Coronet; J. C. Godbey, Coronet; Will Childs, Coronet; Walter Hendon, Clarinet; Walter Jernigan, Clarinet; Ira Reed, Clarinet; Willie Hirni, Tuba; Irl Robison, Bari tone; Edmund Hirni, Slide Trombone; Tom Hirni, Tenor; Edgar McKim, Alto; John Hoagland, Alto; A. C. Saunders, Alto; John McKee, Snare Drum; William Keeney, Bass Drum.

Band concerts were provided by residents who were active in the music group. People were enthusiastic about their band and desired to promote it. In 1908 they built a band wagon through donated funds and labor. They also purchased uniforms and instruments.

Numerous organizations have played a significant roll in Schell City. A Mother's Club, Book Club, The Odd Fellows, Modern Woodmen, Woodman of the World, United Workmen, Selected Knights, G.A.R., Sunshine Extension Club, and Royal Neighbors of America have had organized groups, but memberships have dwindled and the Schell City branches have ceased to exist.

Youth have an opportunity to do their thing through the 4-H Club which was organized in 1928. Doing his thing actually involves learning practical skills by doing.

Although the Modern Priscilla Club is a social club, sixteen members are devoted to community projects. Modern Priscillas accept the responsibility for assisting with many worthwhile causes.

One of the principal undertakings of the group is the financial support toward the up-keep of the Green Lawn Cemetery. In order to raise funds, annually they sponsor a bake sale. In addition the ladies sponsor a Memorial Day Program at the burial grounds

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CENTENNIAL - CONGRATULATIONS

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CENTENNIAL - CONGRATULATIONS

**WESTERN AUTO**

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Schell Citians have enjoyed the work of the Modern Priscilla Club since 1929. Charter members include Lucille Mitchem, Anna Bell Lewis, AlDeane Ditty, Fern Graham, Irma Calvert Brown, President Bell May Brown, Grace Still Walker, Secretary, Ola Erdman Lawn, Blanche Hardie, Louise Kirkpatrick, June Bain, and Ireta Davis.

Working toward useful efforts is another ladies group, The Coal Creek Helping Hand Club. Although it a social organization presently, at the time of its beginning the club members devoted themselves to sewing, quilting or fancy handwork for the hostess. It was not unusual for them to tack a comfort during their meeting. The custom has faded. Today members enjoy an all-day gathering featuring a noon luncheon, visiting and games.

The Friendly Neighbors have met monthly in the home of one of the members since it commenced in 1949. The club is primarily social in nature, but they are conscientious of public needs and community betterment.

Organized in 1957 the Modern Mothers were to work in Community Betterment endeavors. It, too, has become primarily a social club with monthly meetings. However, they do produce a comedy hour each spring, from which the proceeds go to the "Cancer Fund." The following ladies were the original members of the Modern Mothers: Johnnie Mc-

Kinney, Martha Mae Dickbreder, Helen Prough, Alene Vogt, Lillie Fox, Lucille Hoagland, Frances Lewis, Margaret Ann Haddix, Bonnie Heath, Anna Bailey, Anna Mae Hammond, Velma Jewell, Blossom Brown, Flora Bea McKinney, and Evelyn Pierce.

Schell City's Lions Club dedicated to loyalty, individual integrity, our flag, new ideals, and service came into being on December 3, 1959 at an impressive charter night banquet. Mr. K. A. Lasley, vice-president of the bank, was the first president and accepted the charter at the ceremony.

The Lions have been instrumental in acquiring glasses for needy youngsters, sponsoring the Fall Festival in recent years and presently they are the principal promoters of the city's centennial festivities.

The most recently developed group is the Senior Citizens. Young and middle age people do not have a monopoly on the need to do their thing. The senior citizens find they, too, need an outlet through which they express themselves and do something beneficial.

This past January the grandmothers and grandfathers organized with the Reverend Robert Burkey as President. Although the club is young, the members are eager and enthusiastic to become an active, influential organization.

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CONGRATULATIONS SCHELL CITY

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Market**

WALTER P. HAYES, Manager

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CONGRATULATIONS SCHELL CITY

ON YOUR FIRST 100 YEARS

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Schell City is not without its fraternal organizations. The oldest is the Masons, Schell City Lodge No. 448, A.F. and A.M., which was issued a dispensation in 1872 and the charter in October of 1873.

The other is the Order of Eastern Star, Schell City Chapter No. 253, which was chartered the 30th day of September, 1904. The first officers were Sarah E. Marquis, W.M.; J. G. B. Marquis, W. P.; and Dora L. Roberts, A.M. Both groups meet regularly in the Lodge Hall at the corner of 2nd and Main Street.

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March 28, 1912, Schell City News

After holding their regular meetings in the same hall for over 20 years, the Schell City Lodge No. 448 moved this week to the new hall which they have equipped. The new F.P. lighting system was installed this week and the new hall will be dedicated and consecrated by D.D.G.M., Sam B. Vickers, and a banquet will be given for the Masons and Eastern Star, who will both occupy the new quarters.

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The oldest of the present organizations began in 1915 when a group of ladies met for Bible Study in the Rogers home at Harwood. They continued to meet for prayer once a month and the membership grew. Their meetings soon became all-day affairs with a noon luncheon and an afternoon of visiting. In 1926 the club received its name - - - The Merry Workers. They had made their meetings a time for doing hand work.

Today's members are: Mrs Grace Huneke, Mrs Ben Clark, Mrs Alvin Rodieck, Mrs Willa Hardin, and Mrs Frank Phillips of the Harwood area, and Mrs Grace Walker, Mrs Rose Walter, Mrs Anna Bell Lewis, and Miss Lena Ensley of Schell City.

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Residents of the little Vernon County community know how to work and are not prone to shirk their duty. However, "all work and no play makes Jack a dull boy." There is some group for every individual if he wants to participate.

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CENTENNIAL - CONGRATULATIONS

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CENTENNIAL - CONGRATULATIONS

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## UTILITIES

Town residences enjoy all the conveniences of the modern world through public utilities.

The telephone, which came to Schell City in 1903, is considered to be nearly indispensable. At the time of its institution, however, few people were able to have such a luxury.

Jan. 1, 1908 Schell City News

F. Erdman has been entertaining his neighbors very nicely the past week with music on his phonograph over the phone.

July 21, 1910

Notice to patrons of the S. C. Telephone Exchange.

Central office opens at 5:30 A.M. and closes at 9:00 P.M. No ringing on lines or connections will be allowed only in case of accidents, fire, or calls for doctors after closing hours. E. W. Jones, Prop.

June 22, 1911

### NOTICE

Having gone to considerable expense we find it necessary to charge \$1.50 per month for all business phones beginning July 1st. Schell City Telephone Co.

The Telephone Co. gives the forecast of the weather on all farmer's lines about 10 A.M. direct from St. Louis. Listen for 1L 6S if you want the forecast.

Electricity was more of a luxury. It did not come into town until 1919. One must understand the early days of electricity to truly appreciate his own, in spite of the fact it seems terribly inconvenient for him when the power fails.

The earliest subscribers received their electricity from a diesel machine operated by Mr. J. W. Wright and Mr. H. T. Fowler. The machine ran until midnight when it was shut down. The next morning at five a.m. the engine resumed operation. If one needed a light between twelve and five, he was out of luck.

It is very interesting to note that the first twenty subscribers to electricity in Schell City received an electric iron. After worrying and fuming with a flat iron that was constantly getting cold before one finished a shirt or dress, that must have been a genuine incentive to sign up for electricity.

Today electricity is furnished through the auspices of Missouri Public Service Company.

The water system, of course, is much more convenient for everyone. The family no longer has to go out and draw or pump water from a well. He enjoys indoor bathroom facilities that are a result of the water system. Although residents complain about the quality of the water at times, no one is willing to give up the system.

They seek ways to improve and perfect it.



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## INFLUENTIAL PIONEERS AND LONG-ESTABLISHED FAMILIES

(Since there are a number of old families established in Schell City, the writer has chosen to present them in alphabetical order. The order in no way is meant to show importance, influence, social standing or length of residence. If there are those omitted whom the reader may feel should have been included, the writer apologizes. However, all fami-

lies who submitted resumes have been used.

### THE APPLGATE'S

The first members of the Applegate family came to the area were Ebenezer and Emily Frances Applegate, who settled near Belvoir. They had come from Illinois in 1900.

There were eleven children in the family. Only one survives today . . Mr. John Applegate of Square Butte, Montana.

Descendants of these early settlers remain in the area today. A grandson, Emmet Applegate, lives northwest of town.



Applegate Family Home

### DR. GEORGE S. BECK

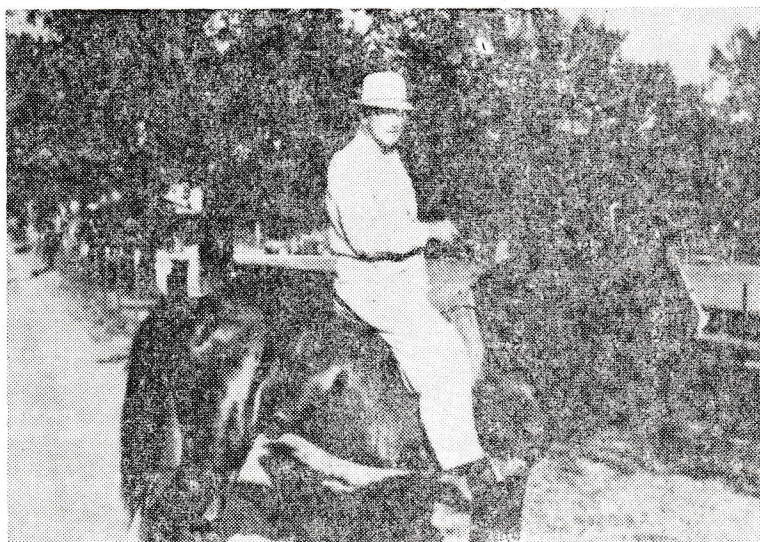
Dr. Beck, a veterinarian, moved to Schell City in 1917 after completing his veterinary medicine training at the State Veterinary School at Kansas City. Prior to that he had taught school for several years.

The veterinarian was devoted to his profession and faithfully served Schell City and the surrounding territory until his death in 1965. He had been appointed to conduct tests of cattle for T. B. in the southern section of states. He served in that capacity

for two years.

Dr. Beck's family included his wife, Ethel, who taught in the Schell City Schools for twelve years, and a daughter, Mary Virginia.

The late doctor was active in community affairs during his lifetime. The family cherish and talk with pride of his loyal membership to the Masonic Lodge. In 1961 he was awarded a fifty year pin for his years of service and devotion.



Dr. George S. Beck



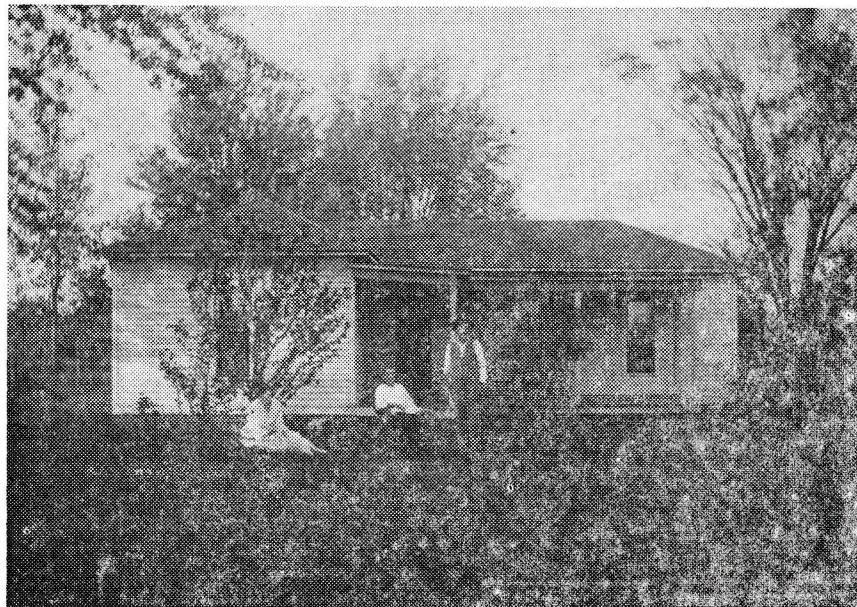
### THE BROOKS FAMILY

Near the turn of the century people in northern Missouri thought Vernon County was a paradise. They believed it had a warmer climate and fine orchards.

One such family was the Nate Brooks family. In the early 1900's they moved to a farm southeast of Schell City where their daughter, Fern, attended school.

Later they moved to Schell City. The young Miss Brooks taught for a time in the Schell City School System, while her father was custodian. In 1954 **she wrote a poem**, "I Can Hear the School Bell Ringing" printed in the program of the dedication of the school bell memorial.

Mr Brooks succumbed in 1937, while Mrs Brooks survived until 1950. Daughter, Fern Scott, now lives in Kansas.



The Brooks

### THE DR. J. R. COLSON FAMILY

Dr. J. R. Colson brought his family to Schell City in 1907 from Spruce, Missouri. There he had had a drug store and office combined. After moving to Schell City, he continued his medical practice until his death in 1945.

Two of Colson's four sons have resided here and conducted successful businesses. W. W. (Dutch) Colson operates the OK Barber Shop and Gene Colson operated a service station for several years until his retirement.



Dr. and Mrs. J. R. Colson



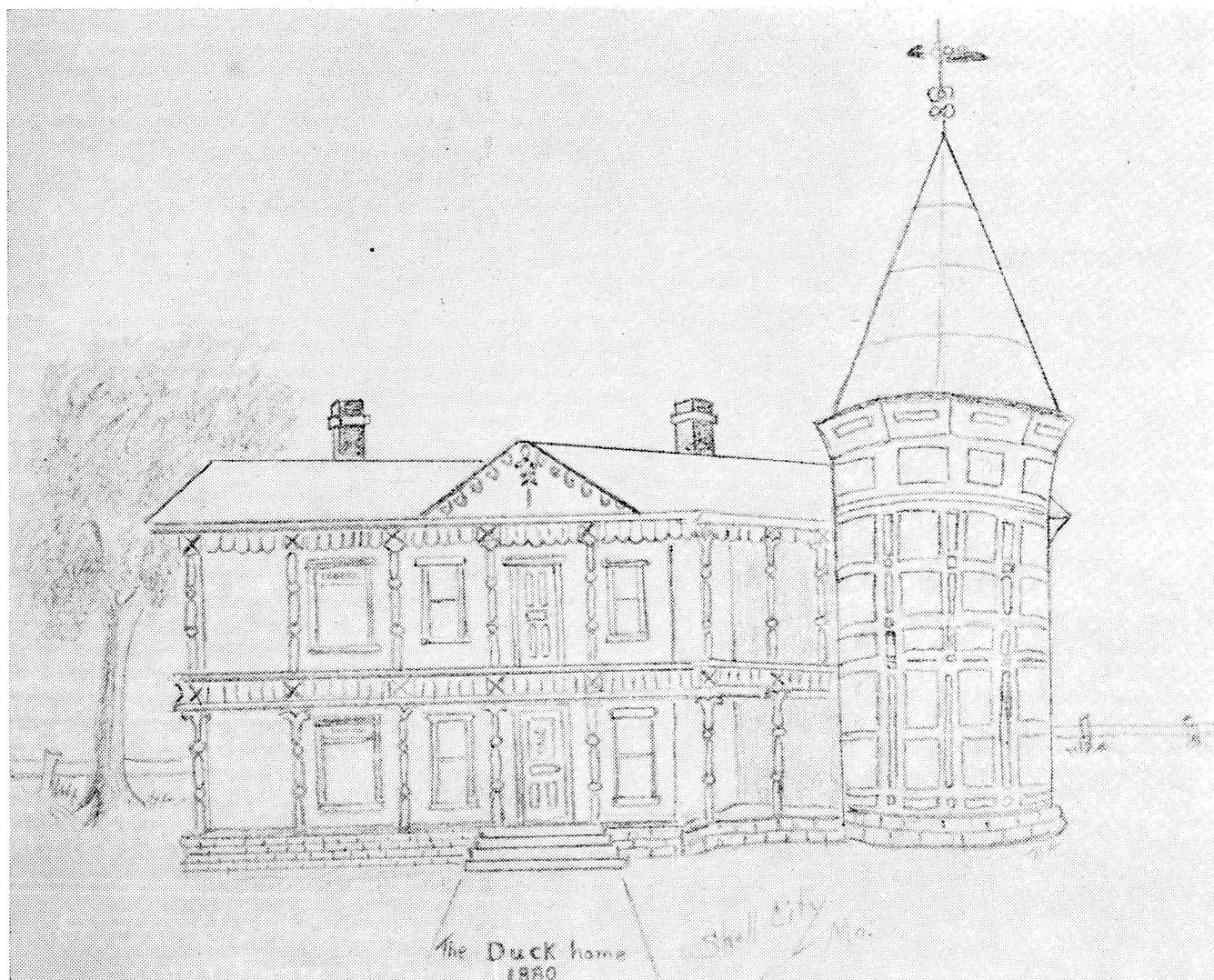
## THE DITTY FAMILY

Mr. and Mrs. Chester Ditty moved their family to Schell City from Appleton City in 1909. Mr. Ditty, a farmer and livestock buyer, became a partner in the Ditty and Ditty Butcher Shop.

The Ditty's daughter, Mrs Lulu Boatright, and son, Jewell W. Ditty, have continued to reside in Schell City until recently when Mrs. Boatright mov-

ed to Coffeyville, Kansas. Another son, Marvin, now lives in Columbia, Missouri. and another sister Mrs. Audry Claussen of Coffeyville, Kansas.

Jewell Ditty has been a prosperous businessman in Schell City's recent years. His son, Jewell Dean, managed Ditty's Produce before selling out to Mr. Jim Mosher a few years ago.



## OLIVER DUCK

Occupying a position of wealth, influence and esteem in the early era of the town was Mr. Oliver Duck. He had known the tough breaks of life, but it had not hampered his need and desire to succeed.

In 1873 he built one of the most famous hotels in the area in Schell City. The History of Vernon County 1887 said, "In every respect this establishment surpasses any along the entire line of the

Missouri, Kansas and Texas Railroad." The same book described Duck as "a most successful landlord."

Mr. Duck was also a farmer of some one thousand acres. He raised a fine grade of Polled Angus, Hereford and Jersey cattle.

Duck provided several acres for a public park at the southeast edge of town.





Miss Lena Ensley

#### MISS LENA ENSLEY

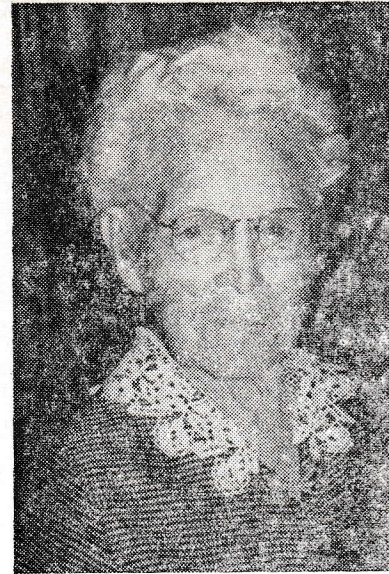
Teachers have indeed been a significant influence upon the community because they play such an important part in molding attitudes and values. Miss Lena Ensley has been such a person. She taught thirty-two years in the Schell City Schools.

Miss Lena was born in Schell City and has always lived in the town. She received her B. S. in Education from Warrensburg's CMSC. Her first teaching position was not in Schell, but rather in Fair Haven. Although she taught many years in the R-1 school district, she also taught at Belvoir, Rockville, Green Ridge and Deepwater.

Teaching has not taken all her time. After retiring from the teaching profession in 1959, she has served as tax collector, postal employee, and assist-

ant in editing the "Schell City News." Miss Lena is an active member of two clubs, and she enjoys working and using her talent for worthwhile enterprises.

The writer is most grateful to Miss Ensley whose notes have been absolutely indispensable in preparing and writing this manuscript. She has supplied much information that has been presented.



Mrs. Lydia Ellis

#### MRS. LYDIA ELLIS

Granddaughter of Mr. James Bacon, for whom the township was named, is Mrs Lydia Ellis, of Nevada. Mrs Ellis was born October 15, 1870. Her parents homesteaded on the family farm in Bacon Township. She continues to have financial interest in the farm.



#### THE HADDIX FAMILY

Five generations of one of Schell City's prominent family leaders are represented in this picture. They are Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Ensley former Justice of the Peace, daughter Laura Ensley Haddix, her son, Melvin Haddix; and his son, Warren O. Haddix, who is presently mayor.

The mayor's great grandfather, Mr. Ensley, was

one of the signers of the petition for incorporation of Schell City in 1879. The great grandfather Haddix lived on a farm east of Schell City at that time.

Another prominent family member is Mr. Elliott Haddix, museum curator, who resides in Schell City. Mr. Haddix was a brother of Mr. Melvin Haddix.

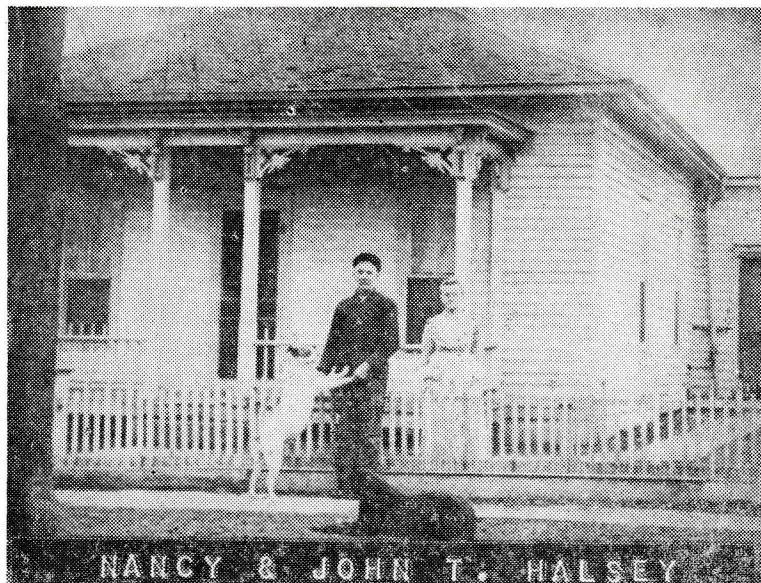


### THE HALSEY FAMILY

Former marshal of Schell City was Mr. John Halsey. He had come to Missouri from Virginia and lived in Webster and St. Clair Counties before moving to Schell City. His family included his wife,

Nancy, and four children, Ellen, James, Charles and Mary.

Mr. Halsey died in 1935 and was interred in the Green Lawn Cemetery. His granddaughter, Mrs. Bertha Hicks Beard, lives west of Schell City.



Mr. and Mrs. John Hoagland and friends, (L to R) Mrs. Starkey,, Mrs. Hoagland, Mrs. Teetor, Mrs. Brooks, Mrs. Harvey, Mr. Teetor. In the car, Mr. Hoagland and Mr. Nate Brooks.

### THE HOAGLAND FAMILY

Mr. John Nelson Hoagland gained prominence during his life as a businessman in Schell City. His first business was a general merchandise store which was destroyed by fire. Later he undertook another vocation, that of blacksmith. He continued

in the business until his retirement.

Mr. Hoagland's family included his wife, Julia, and five children. Today the surviving children are Mr. John M. Hoagland and Mrs. Al Deane Ditty. Both are Schell City residents.

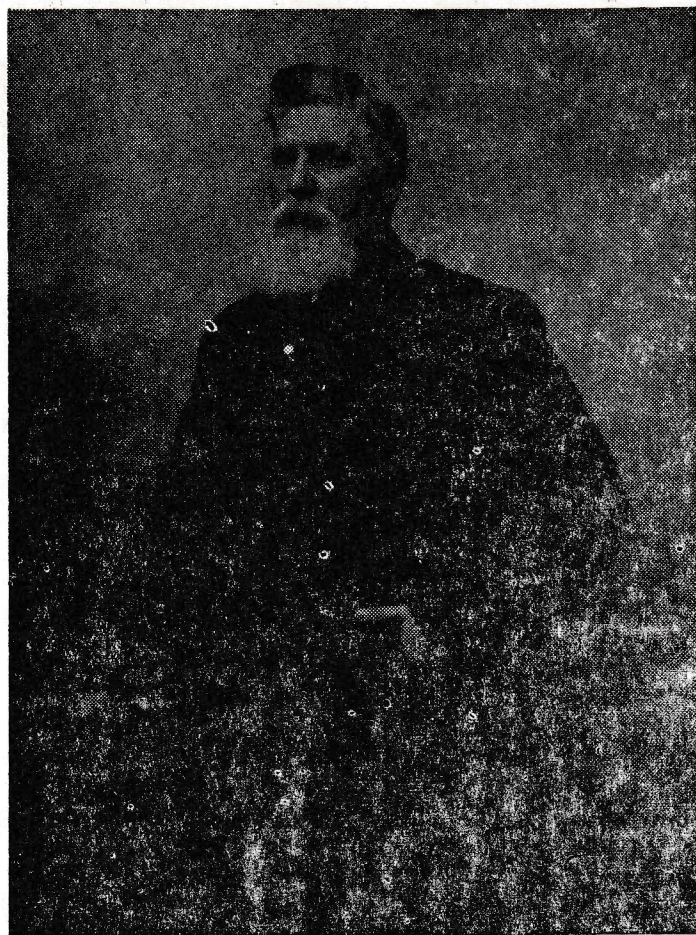


### DR. H. C. JARVIS

Dr. H. C. Jarvis practiced medicine for thirty years in Schell City. He had come to Missouri when he was eleven years old from Illinois. Dr. Jarvis taught school in Henry County and then began his study of medicine. The degree was finally received from the University Medical School of Kansas City.

Dr. Jarvis was a very prominent figure in the

Schell City community. He served two terms as mayor, five years as President of the Schell City Bank, twenty-one years as President of the Board of Education, President of the Vernon County and John T. Hodgen Medical Association, six years as deputy grand master of the district I. O. O. F. and twelve years as representative to the Grand Lodge.



John Lewis

### THE LEWIS FAMILY

Six generations of the Lewis family have resided in Schell City since great great grandfather John Lewis moved into town from Blue Mound Township in the 1880's. Mr. Lewis, who was from the South, had served in the Confederate army under General Price. His bride too, was from the deep south . . . Savannah, Georgia

Prior to entering the hardware business, John Lewis had operated a grocery store. Shortly after going into the hardware store he took a nine week course in embalming and acquired embalmer's license number 247 in Missouri.

The hardware store and funeral home have re-

mained in the hands of sons and grandsons and their families. The business was John Lewis & Son (Lute) until John retired in 1926, Lute Lewis & Son (Marion) until Lute retired in 1945 and Marion remained the sole owner until his untimely death in 1954. The same automobile accident which claimed his life also took the lives of his son, Lute II. and daughter, Mae Frances. This left the family business with his wife, Anna Bell, son John George, and daughter Margaret Ann.

The family members have been active in the church and numerous organizations such as the Masonic Lodge and Order of the Eastern Star.

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### THE LUNDY FAMILY

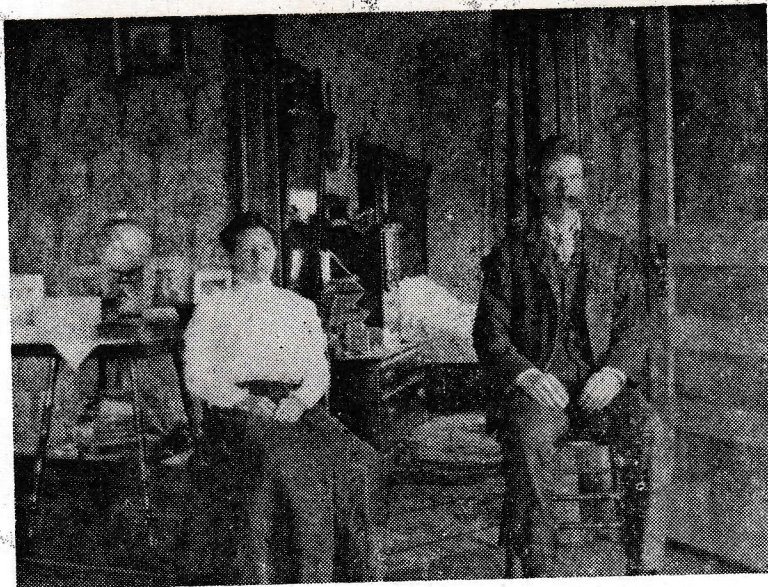
In a quest for land Mr. L. A. Lundy came to Vernon County in 1902. After finding a satisfactory acreage, he returned to Harrison County where he proudly reported his find to his bride-to-be. The young couple were wed on December 10, 1902, and shortly afterwards they moved to the farm south-east of Schell City.

Although Mr. and Mrs. Lundy lived their forty years of married life in the Schell City area, they

did not always live on the original farm they purchased. At the time of Mr. Lundy's death, they lived just at the edge of town. Mrs. Lundy lives with her daughter one block north of Main Street.

The Lundy's had two children, Wilma Ruth and Paul. Their son was killed in 1966 in a tragic truck accident.

The Lundy's have been affiliated with the First Baptist Church since November of 1921.



Mr. and Mrs. L. A. Lundy

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The Albert Maus family, Mr. and Mrs. Chris Maus, Eddie Maus, Jakie Maus, Mosey Maus, the John L. Maus family, the Tony Faustabend family, Miss Gustie Maus and Mr. John Vantellman

#### GEORGE MAUS FAMILY

German ancestry forms the background of the Maus family. The grandparents of Mr. George Maus immigrated to this country from Germany with their parents. After arriving in the U. S., they settled in the area of Jefferson City.

When young Chris reached adulthood, he traveled up the Osage on a barge. After locating a homestead near Belvoir, he brought his bride to the area. The old family home is today known as the Roy Maus place.

#### THE MOSHER FAMILY

In 1898 Grandmother Mosher came to Schell City with her father and son, Henry. She had recently been widowed as a result of the Spanish-American War.

Young Henry became a successful farmer in the community. He was ambitious, and not being satisfied with the status quo, he introduced the first

lespedeza seed and commercial fertilizer to farmers in this area in the 1920's. It was also he who bought the first sizeable amount of pecans for commercial purposes.

Five of Mr. Mosher's sons continue to live in the Schell City area. They are: Edwin, Jim, Harold, Kenneth and Ralph. Sons Roy and Melvin live in nearby Nevada.

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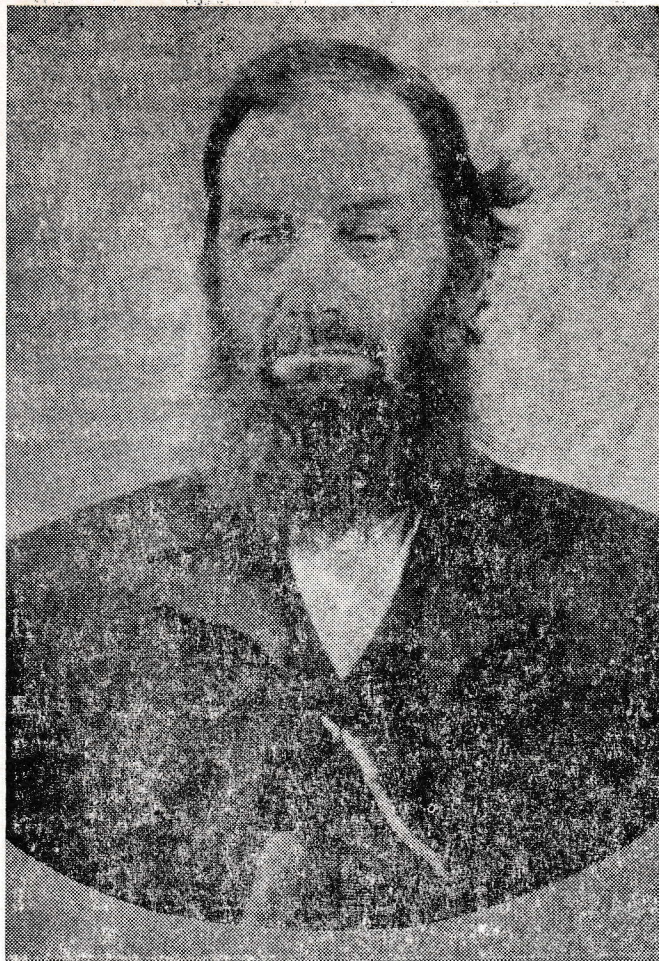
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Dr. Eugene R. Morerod

**EUGENE RUDOLPH MOREROD, M.D.**

Given much credit for the development of coal deposits in the county, and lauded for his leadership in educational matters during the 1870's and 1880's was Dr. Eugene Morerod. Dr. Morerod came to the Schell City area from Tennessee. However, his father was from Vevay, Switzerland.

Prior to coming to Schell City, Dr. Morerod had studied medicine in Ohio, served as hospital steward during the war with Mexico, and established a lucrative practice in Madrid Bend, Tennessee. The doctor served as a second lieutenant in the 1st Division of the Missouri State Guard. Then, when the army reorganized in 1862, he became a first lieutenant. During the Civil War Dr. Morerod served in several medical capacities, after being wounded at Shiloh.

He moved to Vernon County in 1867 and after several years he bought a farm southeast of Schell City and moved there. Today his grandson, Shurley, lives on the farm with his family.

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## ELEANOR MITCHEM MOYER

Schell City's oldest citizen can trace her ancestors back to the period of the Revolutionary War and a first cousin of Davy Crockett.

Eleanor Mitchem Moyer was born in 1874 near the Vernon - St. Clair County line. When it was time for her to begin school, she started at Roberts, but when she was eight the family moved into Schell City. It was there that her father thrilled her with her first ready made hat and coat.

In 1894 Eleanor Mitchem married Harvey Strader. In 1910 Mr. Strader died and the young widow and her four children continued to live at the home near Taberville.

In 1922 Mrs. Strader married Mr Michael Moyer and moved with him to Harwood.

All of Mrs. Moyer's children live close-by. They are: Mrs. Gladys Bowman, with whom she lives in Schell City, Mrs. Irene Roe, Mr. Ross Strader and Mrs. Pauline Robinson.

Mrs. Moyer's life has been a productive, purposeful one. She was an active faithful member of the First Baptist Church as long as her physical strength permitted. Until 1968 she maintained her own home in Schell City. Today Schell City's eldest citizen is mentally alert, enjoys the visits of her



Mrs. Eleanor Mitchem Moyer

many friends and sees her lengthy life as part of God's plan and it definitely has a purpose.

## JOHN EDWARD REICH

Traveling north from Springfield Mr. Reich settled with his family in Schell City about one hundred years ago. At that time there were only two other houses in the village.

Mr. Reich who was a stone mason, found his trade to be much in demand. What more opportune moment could he have chosen than the early 1870's for moving to Schell City. One of his first jobs was that of helping construct the Baptist Church.

Son Charley grew up in the area and settled in the growing town. He followed closely in his father's footsteps and became a carpenter.

The surviving descendant of father Charley and grandfather John Reich is Mrs. Rena Loyd who lives in the Schell City community.



The Roberts Family

## THE ROBERTS FAMILY

The homestead belonging to the Robert's family for one hundred years was only recently sold, after the death of one of the last of Samuel Roberts', Sr. descendants. The senior Mr. Roberts came to Schell City and bought the home in 1870 in a partnership deal with his brother, Lafayette. The brother expired in 1881.

Meanwhile, Samuel Roberts had taken a new partner, Miss Amanda Jane Roberson. That marriage proved to be most productive. Thirteen children were born to the couple. The eldest son was killed in 1913 while serving with the U. S. Marines in Nicaragua. The only two survivors are Mrs. Cleo Norman of Harwood and Mrs. Grace Biddlecome of El Dorado Springs.

The family home is southeast of town and is located just across the road from the school bearing the old family name.

CENTENNIAL - CONGRATULATIONS

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Mr. and Mrs. Ashley Stevens

#### THE STEVENS FAMILY

Bert L. Stevens first came to the Schell City area in 1880 from Arrow Rock, Missouri, in the Bagnell Dam locality. His son, Ashley, was sixteen at the time and attended the Roberts school.

After his marriage to a local lass, young Ashley lived on the family farm southeast of Schell City.

There his family of three children was raised.

Two sons reside in the vicinity today - Raymond of Harwood and Ledgewood of Schell City. The daughter, Mrs Leona Gaff, now lives in Minnesota.

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#### CENTENNIAL - CONGRATULATIONS

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Mrs. Grace Still Walker

#### GRACE STILL WALKER

After fifty-two years of teaching "Miss Grace" retired in 1961. During those years she had served as primary teacher in Schell City twenty-seven years, three years in Rockville, and twenty-two years at Green Ridge. Upon her retirement at Green Ridge a "This is Your Life" program was presented in her honor.

Mrs Walker arrived in Schell City with her parents in 1904, at which time she entered the sixth grade. Four years later she graduated with the class of 1908.

She attended college in Warrensburg, Greeley, Colorado; and finally received her degree from Springfield.

Shortly after her retirement from teaching she was married to Harold Walker and moved to Nevada. "Miss Grace" chose to return to Schell City after his death. She has just recently had a new home built in the south part of town. Today she is an active member of the community and enjoys many friendships.

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These are only a few of the many families who have called Schell City home. Although many have not been mentioned, they too have been worthy citizens and each has made his own contribution to the town.

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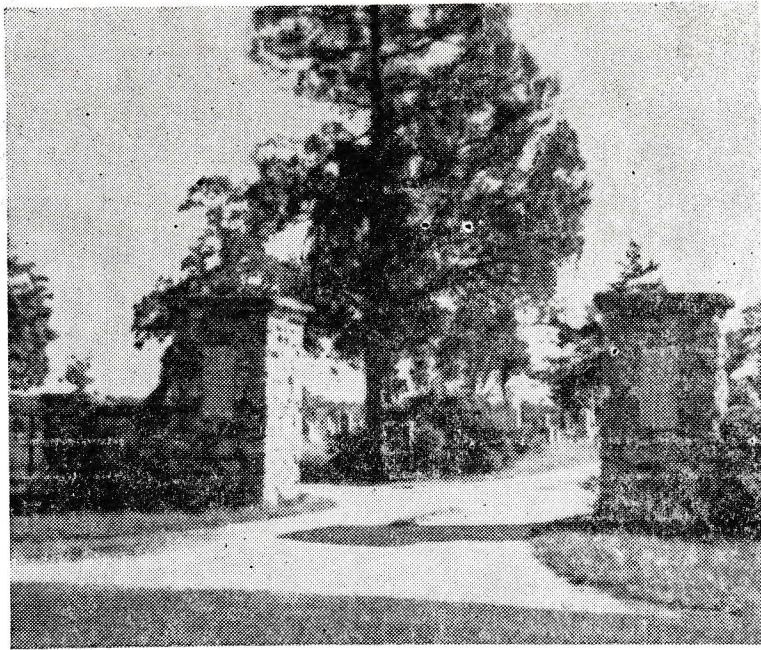
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Entrance to Green Lawn Cemetery

## GREEN LAWN CEMETERY

The beginning of the Green Lawn Cemetery dates back to 1866. In 1879 a nonprofit incorporation was formed by ten men, Thomas Smith, Oliver Duck, W. W. Sullins, L. B. Sullivan, John Boatright, S. C. Bobbitt, Willet Gardner, S. H. Griffin, T. L. Strong, and Anton Eppenhour. This group of leaders conducted the business of the association and managed the upkeep of the graveyard.

In 1880 Mr. S. C. Bobbitt made the letters and painted them on the archway that hung at the entrance. Three years later five additional acres were

purchased to increase the cemetery's size.

Improvements and upkeep of the final resting place for many former Schell Citizens is paid for by donations from those who have family and friends there. Of course, the Modern Priscilla Club have made the upkeep a major project since 1929. One year later the present stone entrance was erected by Harry Brown.

Like most ventures of the community the cemetery's appearance is a source of pride and satisfaction to the citizenry. It is appropriately kept and shows the love and respect that Schell Citizens have for their loved ones who are buried there.

One hundred years. Incredible events. The automobile has been introduced, the airplane made it a small world, man has walked on the moon, medical science has made not-to-be-believed progress in the form of the transplant, wars have taken thousands of young men, skirt lengths have gone up, down, up, up, and up, silent movies replaced by talking movies that have to be rated "GP", "R", or "X", television has replaced visiting, family conversation, reading and other wholesome activities, joy, confusion, excitement, sorrow, have had their day.

A friendly little town was born. It grew. Fires. Floods. Newcomers. National crisis. Weddings. Babies. Death. The cycle of life has made the history of the town. Man has made Schell City. He can not change the past. Only can he reminisce and speculate how it might have been. However it might have been is insignificant today.

Schell City. Yesterday a booming town, today a small town unique in the world of suburbia, tomorrow? ? ? As man has made it, he will continue to make whatever it becomes.

## INDIAN SPRINGS

A much more recent addition to the outlying community is Indian Springs. Indian Springs is located in the Belvoir vicinity. It is an area developed and subdivided by Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Moles, who began their business venture in 1963.

Since the planning and beginning of construction

of the Kaysinger Dam, the Moles' have sold about two hundred lots. The area now is dotted with small vacation cabins and a few retirement homes.

The Osage Indians lived in the area and their burial grounds in the vicinity of the modern resort area led to the name given to it by Mr. Moles. Numerous small springs are scattered over the vicinity and gave the second part of the name.



Older families no doubt can most appreciate this  
poem written by a former citizen.

### MY HOME TOWN

(by June Daily Bain)

Stored away within my memories  
Are things that are so dear  
And as I sit and reminisce  
They seem to re-appear.

When just a kid I roamed around  
Respecting every rule  
I spent my entire learning in that  
Old Schell City school.

We lived out south . . . about a mile  
Just over that old hill  
I'd skip a light fantastic  
While passing Zener's mill.

'Twas such a friendly town  
One thing I did adore  
Was trading eggs for candy  
In Mr. Darrow's store.

My HIGH SCHOOL days were something else . . .  
I tell you . . they were great.  
You never seem to realize this  
Until it is too late.

There is a sacred spot just west of town  
And when I'm there I pray  
May we ALL be re-united  
On that resurrection day.



**Congratulations To**

**Schell City on it's**

**100 th Anniversary**

**Rich Hill Insurance Agency**

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A contrasting view is given of one of Schell City's first basketball teams and a more recent team. The above picture shows the team in about 1917 preparing for a work-out on their out door court. Their team included Milton Dade, Henry White, Marvin Ditty, Harold Ellinger, William Gilbreth, and Marion Lewis, manager.

The 1968-69 team shown talking game strategy with Coach Joe Ford in the gymnasium are Roger Sanderson, Jerry Sanderson, Tommy Fox, Neal Gerster and David McKinney.





*Heartiest Congratulations  
to the*

CITY OF SCHELL CITY, MO



*on your*

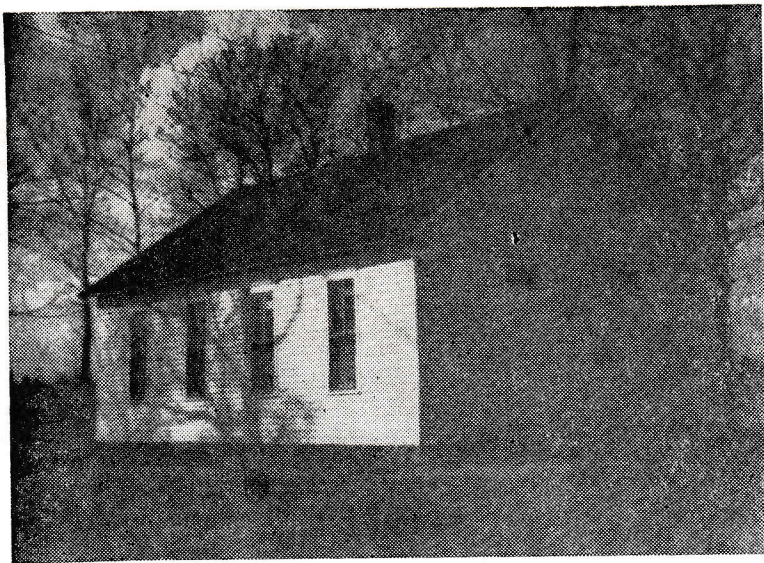
100TH

*Anniversary*

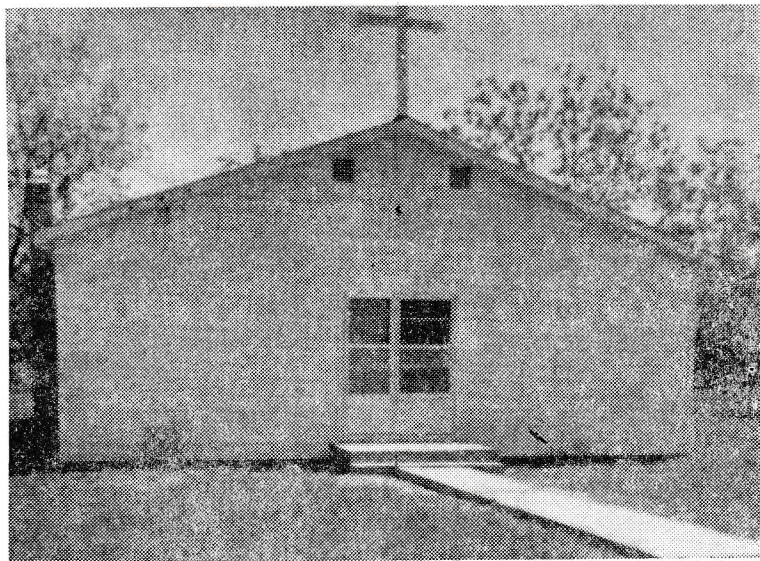


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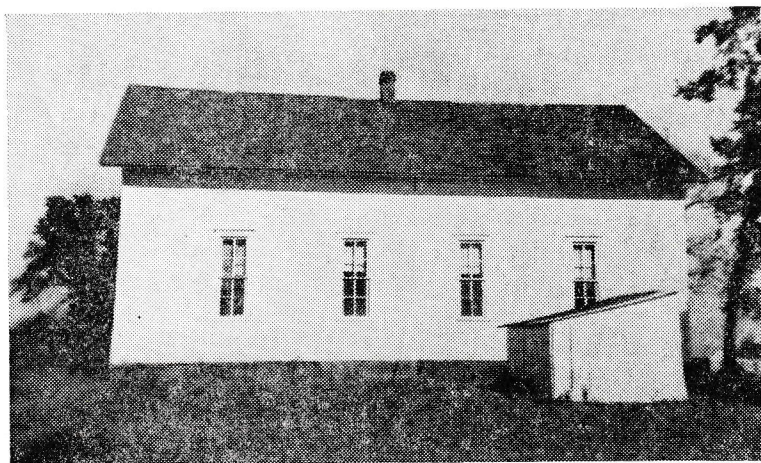




Although school had not been in session for several years at Belvoir, the district was officially voted a part of the R-1 district in 1956. That election swept in several one room schools. Annie Alexander Haynes taught the last term of school there. Today the building is owned by Belvoir Community Club.



The Church of Christ. The new and larger chapel was built in 1963



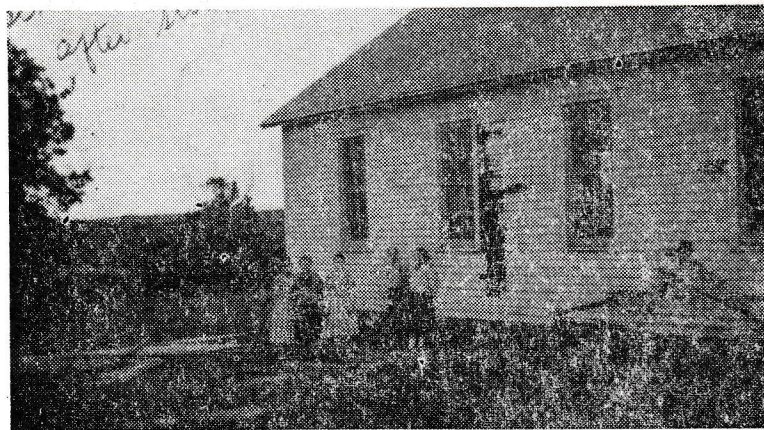
The original Blue Mound Baptist Church





May 4, 1905

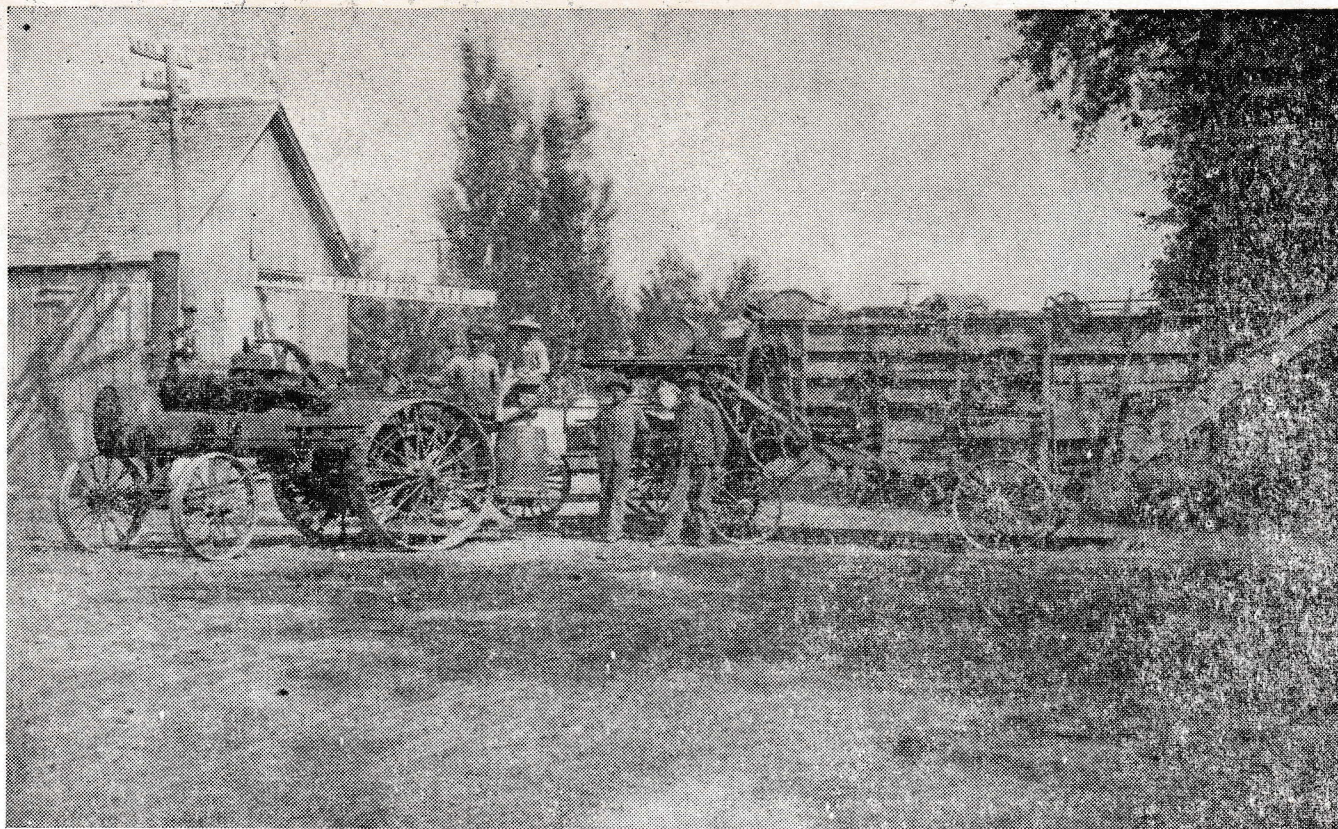
T. C. Pitts and family moved from El Dorado Springs to our city last Friday. Mr. Pitts has opened up a jewelry repair shop in G. Pape's Store.



The Roberts school house after the wind storm  
July 5, 1923

A severe wind storm that in places assumed the proportion of a tornado swept through this section on Wednesday of last week. It was accompanied by a heavy downpour of rain. The storm seemed to be the most severe in the vicinity of Roberts school house five miles east of Harwood. A large barn built less than a year ago on the Sam Roberts farm was wrecked. Flying timbers from the barn struck the school house a short distance away and it was badly damaged. The Roberts house was partly unroofed. A large number of trees on this place and on the Tom Harvey farm were uprooted and broken off. A barn on the Joe Hardin place and several small buildings and many trees on the place occupied by Thomas Greer were destroyed.





An early threshing machine towed by a steamengine depicts a much earlier, somewhat more primitive method of farming.



Teams of oxen were important to farmers for plowing, harvesting and even transportation. Several people in the area used the animals in place of the horses.

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CENTENNIAL - CONGRATULATIONS

SEARS  
ROEBUCK & CO.

125 S. Washington Phone 667-3341 Nevada, Mo.

CENTENNIAL - CONGRATULATIONS

THOMAS PHARMACY & GIFT SHOP

100 - 102 E. Cherry Phone 667-5466 Nevada, Mo.





The W. F. Young Packing Company received large numbers of ducks and other fowl for preparation for consumer consumption. The hunter then enjoyed unlimited hunting privileges for the water fowl.

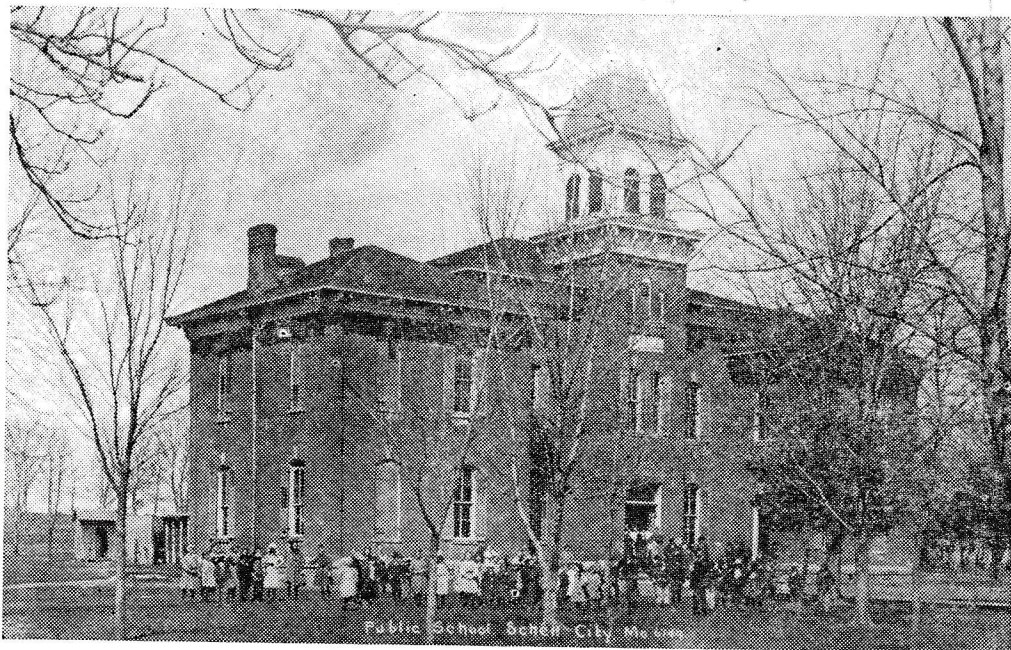


Today one is limited. He must check his book for the number. Not only is it necessary to know the kind of waterfowl one is shooting, but the specific bird of the species. Randy Carlton, nephew of Dick Graham, is shown with his limit of ducks.



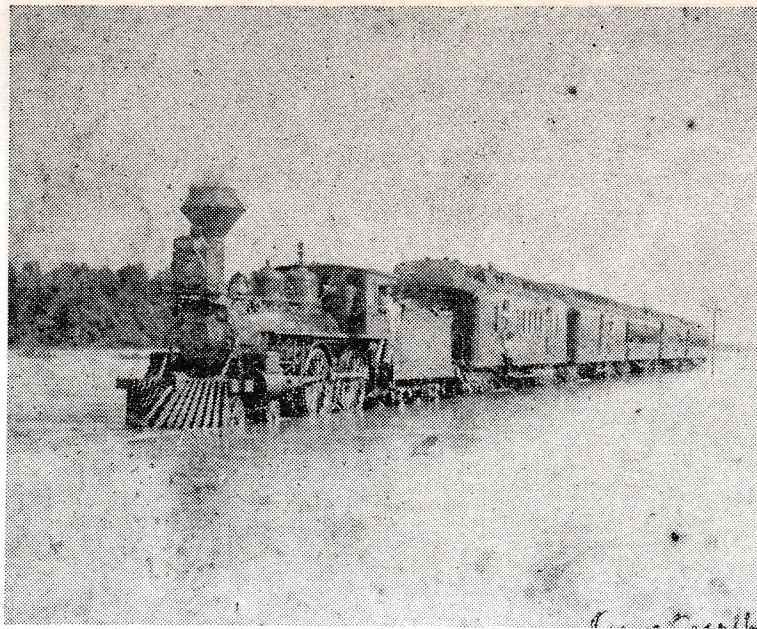


Miss Grace Still's Room 1 performed as a rhythm band. The P.T.A. furnished caps and capes for the group.



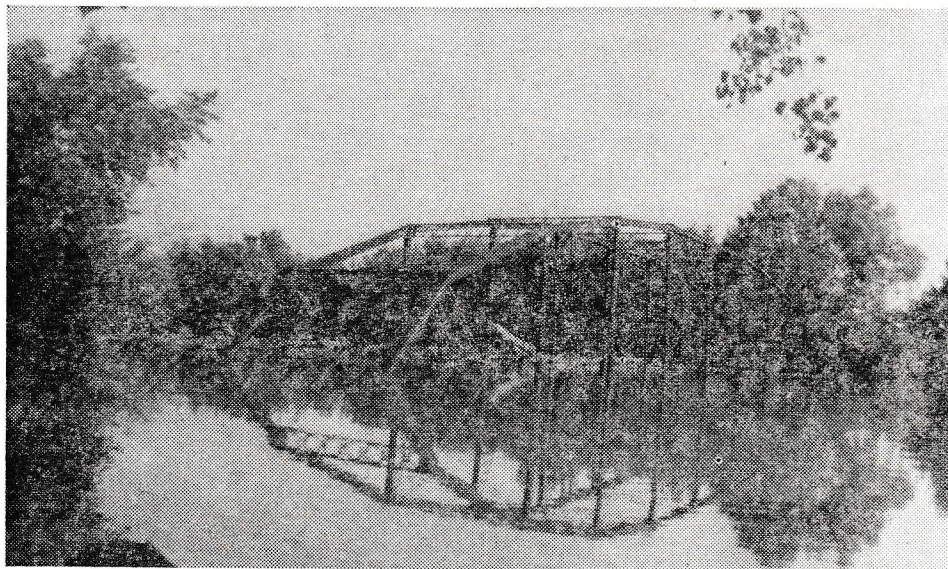
Several students and teachers gathered outside the old school for their picture to be taken. This building was partially built from gifts made by the town's founder.





An early train is shown chugging through the river's overflow.

The Osage River usually overflows its banks annually. Roadway and railway traffic is frequently hampered by the water that back up.



The river bridge withstood one of the worst floods of the century during July 1951. A vigil was kept for several days and nights as men watched and worked to turn huge logs so they could float on down the river. The river crested at 45 feet. A few Schell Citians were able to dabble their toes in the backwater out their back doors.

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CENTENNIAL - CONGRATULATIONS

**DAHMER ELECTRIC CO.**

LAMP POSTS Gold, Silver, Copper CHANDLERS

700 E. Cherry

Nevada, Missouri

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CENTENNIAL - CONGRATULATIONS

**MODE - O - DAY**

Ladies Ready to Wear - Children's Dresses

East Side of Square

Nevada, Missouri





Coal Creek Helping Hand Club



Friendly Neighbors

These ladies were early members of the Friendly Neighbors.

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CENTENNIAL - CONGRATULATIONS

OBERLIN'S O-B MARKET

A-G STORES

221 W. Walnut Ph. 667-3561 Nevada, Missouri

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CENTENNIAL - CONGRATULATIONS

WILKINSON PHARMACY

Phone 667-7802

N. Side Square

Nevada, Mo.

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CENTENNIAL - CONGRATULATIONS

PICKET'S SUNDRIES

200W. Walunt

Nevada, Missouri

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CENTENNIAL - CONGRATULATIONS

TELEVISION

GE

PLUMBING

THORPE'S

114 N. Cedar

Nevada, Mo. 64772





Several local residents, who were "just loafing" or passing by, were featured in this picture. The Lewis Hardware is in the background.



Schell City's oldest residence is owned by Leander Steele. The house, which was one of the first erected in town, is on Fourth Street.

CENTENNIAL - CONGRATULATIONS

MOSHER'S

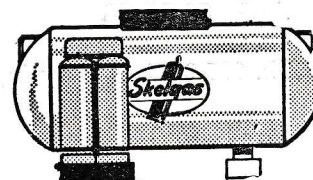
LAUNDRY & CLEANING VILLAGE

Coin-operated laundry and dry cleaning

Also professional dry cleaning

Village Mall

Nevada, Mo.



APPLETON CITY SKELGAS SERVICE

Phone 476-5811

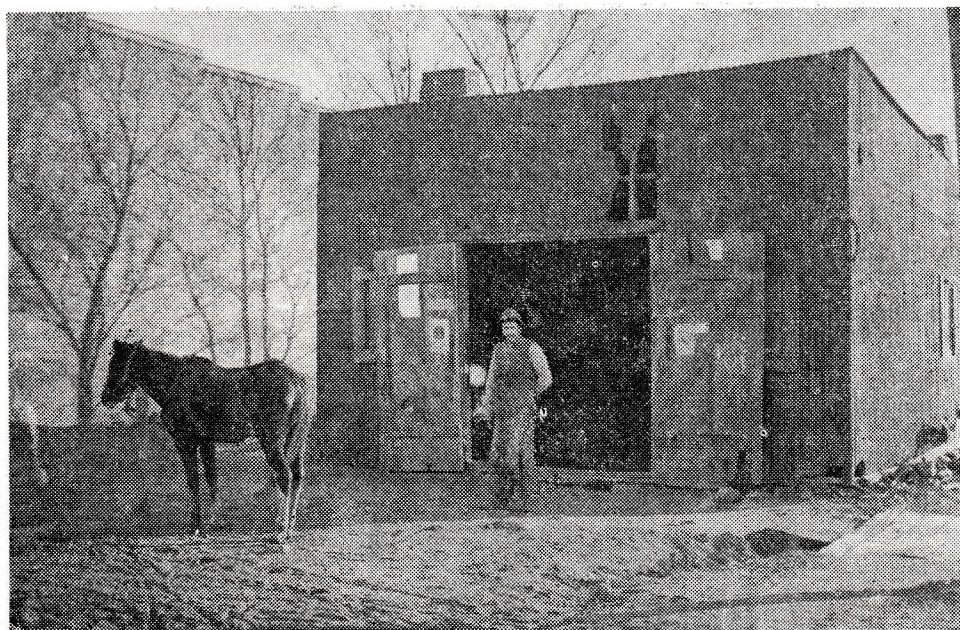
222 West 4th St.

Appleton City, Mo. 64724





The public school faculty in 1912-1913 consisted of six teachers and the superintendent. The ladies included Mabel Flagg, Lena Landes, Alice Longman, Supt. Hugh Mott, Blanche Bishop, Meredith Norton and Grace Still.



A business of a past era is that of the blacksmith. The last blacksmith shop in Schell City was operated by Jackie Maus. The advent of the automobile closed the doors of the blacksmith shops all over the country.





Modern Priscillas

L to R) Mrs. Grace Still Walker, Mrs. Lulu Boat right, Mrs. Bliss Daily, Mrs. Anna Bell Lewis, Mrs. Ida Colson, Mrs. Rose Walter, Mrs. Gladys Bowman, Mrs. Frances Lewis, Mrs. AlDeane Ditty, Mrs. Fern Graham, Mrs. Ireta Davis. Not pictured is Mrs. Jean Hoagland and Mrs. Margaret Ann Haddix.



Modern Mothers

(Back Row) Mrs. Margaret Ann Haddix, Mrs. Elma Smith, Mrs. Anna Mae Hammond, Mrs. El-Vera Beard, Mrs. Deloris Gaines, Mrs. Helen Prough, Mrs. Anna Bailey, Mrs. Frances Sanderson, (Front Row) Mrs. Carrole Sanderson, Mrs. Nova Brackenridge, Mrs. Lucy Greer, Mrs. Frances Lewis and Mrs. Nancy Fagan.





Mothers Club

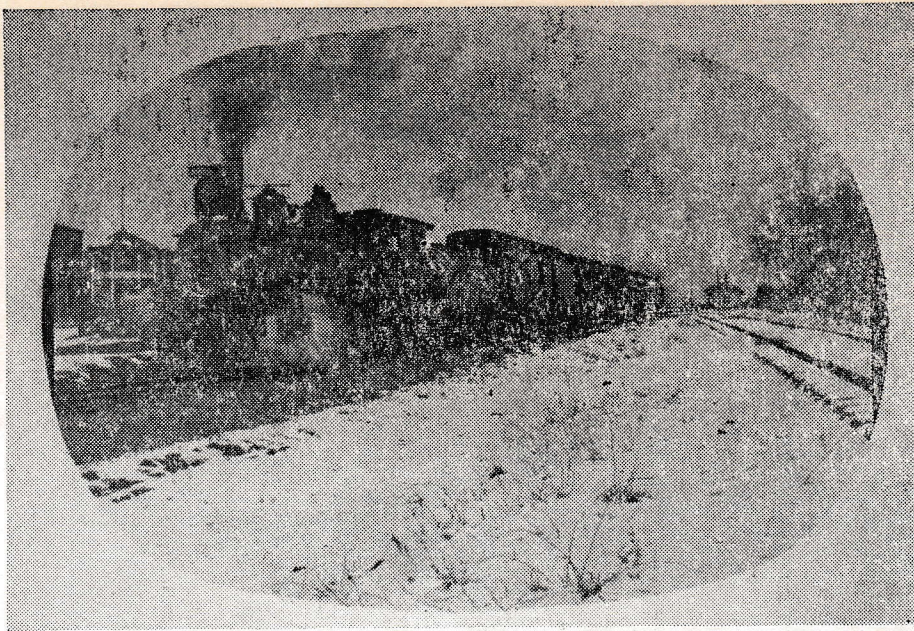


Book Club

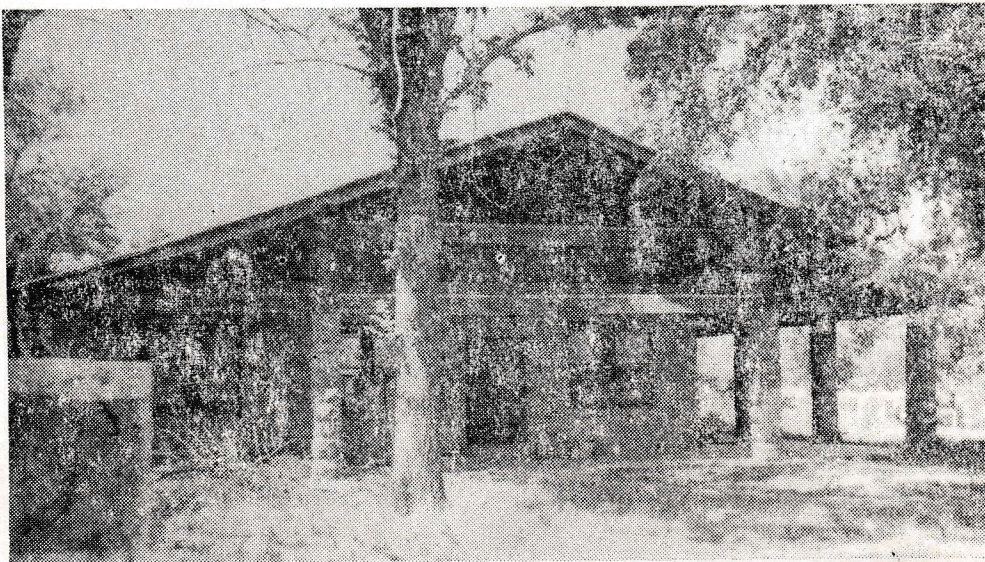


Sunshine Club





A KATY Flyer is shown pulling away from the Schell City depot during the winter. On the left the south pagoda was a quiet reminder of spring, summer and fall outdoor concerts, while the depot and the old cheese factory stood peacefully on the right side of the tracks



The State Conservation Department maintains its Osage Wildlife Refuge headquarters in this building, which is centrally located on the refuge acreage. Hunters check their game, purchase hunting and fishing licenses, and get information about camping, picnicking, fishing and hunting.

COMPLIMENTS OF

**LIONS**



**CLUB**



CONGRATULATION TO SCHELL CITY

ON IT'S 100<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY

**Hinkley Beverage, Inc.**

**Fort Scott, Kansas**

MIKE FARMER, SALESMAN

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CONGRATULATIONS SCHELL CITY

IN OUR 78TH YEAR

ON YOUR FIRST 100 YEARS

**Pioneer**

**Seed Corn**



DEALER

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LEDGEWOOD STEVENS

ON IT'S CENTENNIAL

SCHELL CITY, MO.

PHONE 432-4541



THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

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Library Building

East Side

Chicago

1900

1901

1902

1903



1904

1905



## PRESENT PAST FUTURE

Life is a book of volumes three  
The present, the past, the yet-to-be.  
The present we are living every day,  
The past is a memory soon slipping away.  
The third, the last of the volume three,  
Is hidden from sight  
God holds the key.

Author Unknown



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